



# KASANE

2

d a r u m a  
m a t s u u r a



2

# KASANE

d a r u m a  
m a t s u u r a

Chapter Nine:	Neena Tanzawa	3
Chapter Ten:	The Seagull	27
Chapter Eleven:	Sleeping Beauty	47
Chapter Twelve:	Reita Ugou	69
Chapter Thirteen:	Encroaching	89
Chapter Fourteen:	Kiss	109
Chapter Fifteen:	Incurring Her Wrath	129
Chapter Sixteen:	What Can Be Seen Is Everything	149
Chapter Seventeen:	The Two Ninas	169









WHERE  
ARE YOU  
GOING?



HEY.

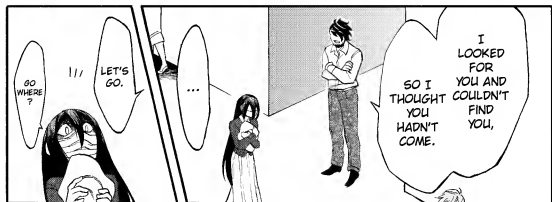


MY UGLINESS  
ISN'T JUST  
SKIN-DEEP...

IT'S EATEN  
RIGHT  
THROUGH  
THE SURFACE,  
AND COMES  
OUT EVEN IN  
HOW I ACT!



KINGO  
HABUTA...



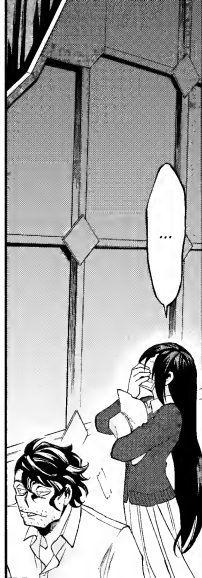
GO  
WHERE  
?

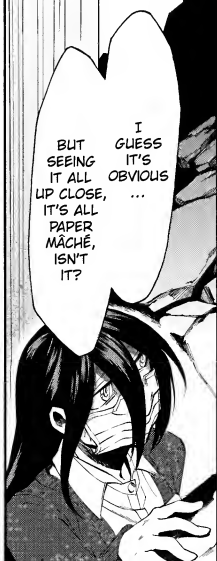
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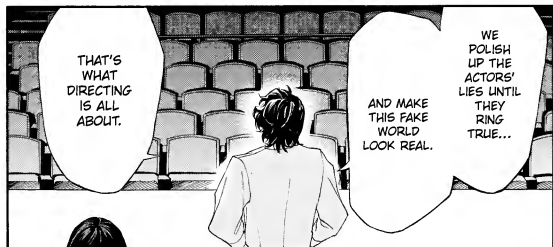
LET'S  
GO.

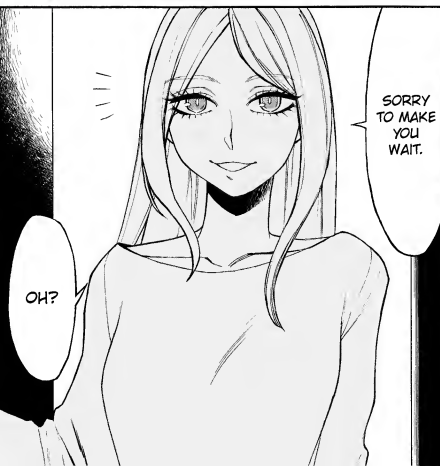
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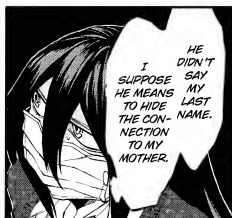
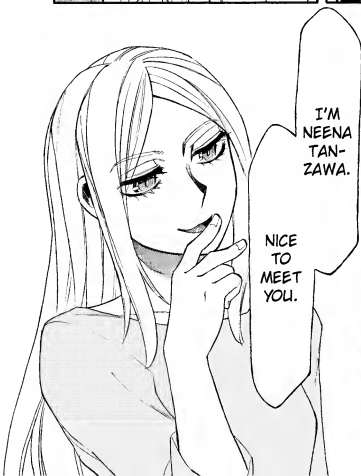
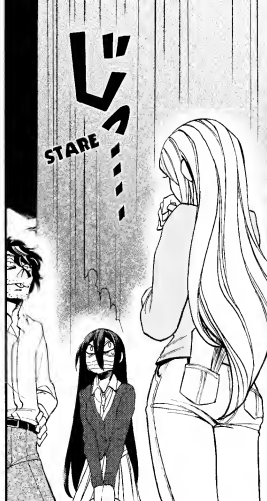
I  
LOOKED  
FOR  
YOU AND  
COULDN'T  
FIND  
YOU,  
SO I  
THOUGHT  
YOU  
HADN'T  
COME.















JUST  
WAIT.

JUST  
WHAT  
IS THIS  
WITCH  
GOING  
TO DO  
FOR  
ME?

SO,  
HABUTA-  
SAN.  
  
YOU  
SAID  
YOU'D  
SHOW  
ME  
"MAGIC."



THIS IS  
THE ACTOR  
HABUTA-SAN  
WAS TALKING  
ABOUT?

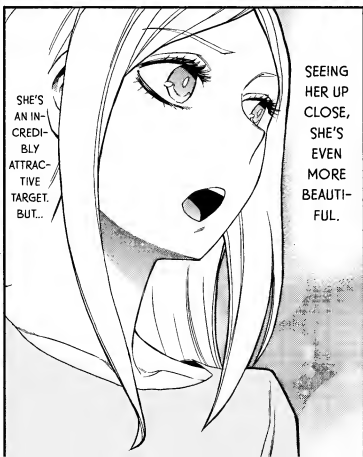
OF ALL  
PEOPLE  
...



...

I'M  
LEAV-  
ING.

WHAT?

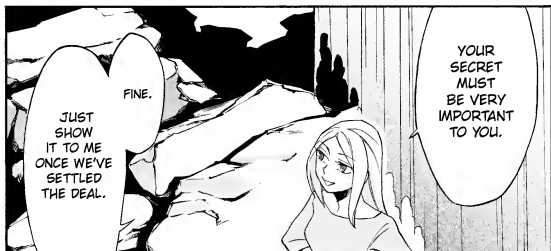


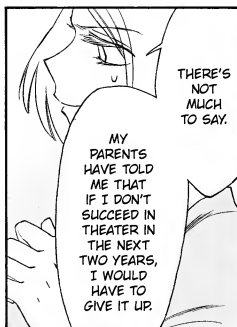
SHE'S  
AN IN-  
CREDI-  
BLY  
ATTRAC-  
TIVE  
TARGET.  
BUT...

SEEING  
HER UP  
CLOSE,  
SHE'S  
EVEN  
MORE  
BEAUTI-  
FUL.









AND SHE'S STILL  
SO ARROGANT  
ABOUT IT?  
SOMETHING  
ABOUT THIS  
BOTHERS ME.

IS SHE  
AWARE  
THAT SHE  
CAN'T  
ACT?

BUT FROM  
THE WAY HABUTA-  
SAN WAS TALKING,  
YOUR ACTING  
SKILLS ARE PRETTY  
IMPORTANT FOR  
THIS PLAN. SO...

I DON'T  
KNOW  
WHAT THIS  
"MAGIC"  
OF YOURS  
IS...

I THINK  
I'LL MAKE  
MY DECISION  
ONCE YOU'VE  
READ OUT  
THIS SCRIPT.

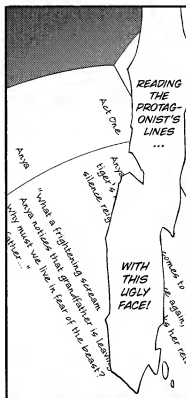
The  
Tiger's  
Bride

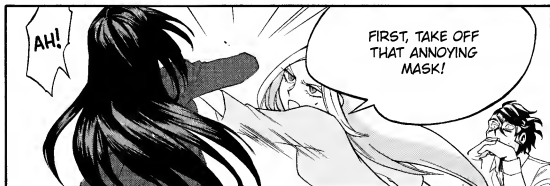
I'LL READ  
THE OTHER  
CHARAC-  
TER.

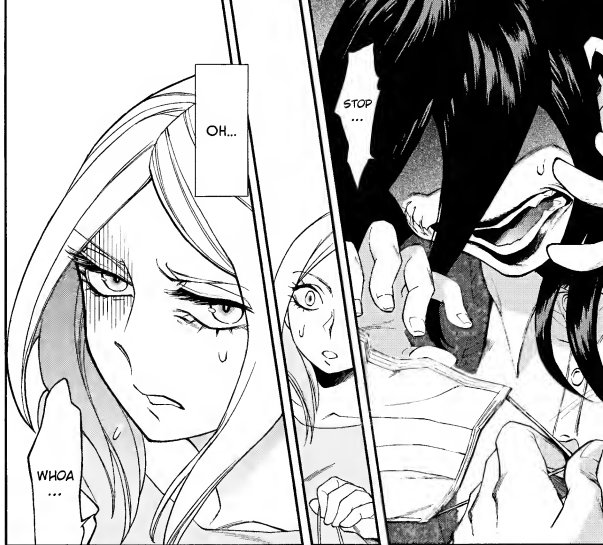
YOU  
READ THE PROTAG-  
ONIST'S  
LINES.

A  
SCRIPT  
!

...









IT'S  
BETTER  
TO SHOW  
HER  
RIGHT  
OFF THE  
BAT.

THE  
DEAL'S  
ALREADY  
DONE,  
ANY-  
WAY.

THAT'S  
IT.



YOU  
CAN'T  
DO IT,  
AFTER  
ALL-

HEY...  
ARE  
YOU  
OKAY?



...

ME,  
TOO...

IT'S  
NOT FAIR  
THAT YOU  
CAN HIDE  
ALL THAT  
BEHIND  
A PRETTY  
FACE.





YES,  
I CAN.

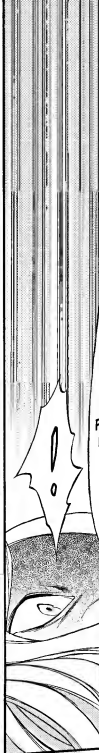
THUMP

PHEW



"WHY  
MUST  
WE..."

LIVE  
IN FEAR  
OF THE  
BEAST?"



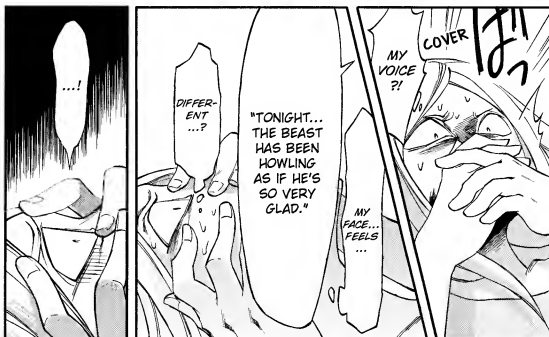
HOW  
FRIGHT-  
ENING."



"THAT  
ROAR  
..."



"TELL  
ME,  
GRAND-  
FATHER."





SUKE-  
YO-  
SAN  
...

SHE  
MIGHT  
JUST  
BE-  
COME  
...

THE  
REAL  
THING.



**KASANE**

## FIELD GUIDE



DJUNGARIAN HAMSTER



ROBOROVSKI HAMSTER



GOLDEN HAMSTER



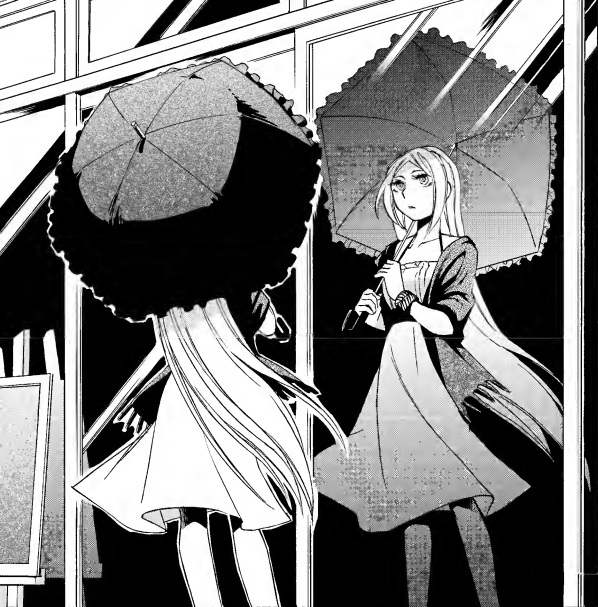
KINGO HABUTA

Chapter Ten: The Seagull

















RIGHT  
NOW,  
YOU'RE  
NEENA  
TANZAWA!

SO THEN,  
GO ON, BE  
CONFIDENT!

Y-YEAH  
...



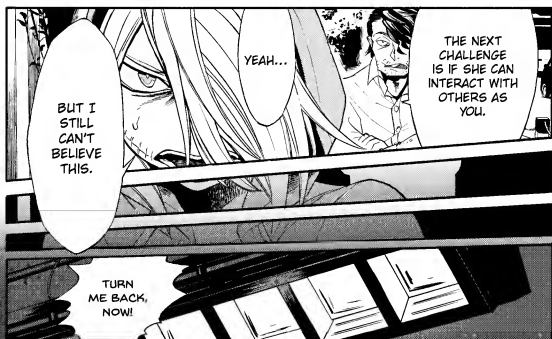
A  
LITTLE.

WELL,  
SINCE  
THIS IS  
THE FIRST  
TIME I'VE  
HAD HER  
GO OUT  
WITH MY  
FACE  
ON.

HOW  
MUCH  
HAVE YOU  
TAUGHT  
HER IN  
THE PAST  
WEEK?

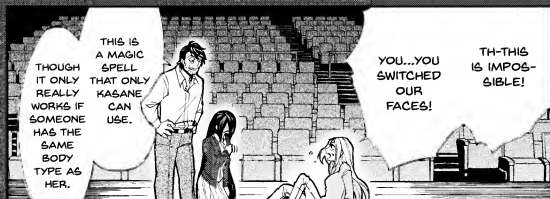
WHAT?

CHICK-  
ENING  
OUT?









THOUGH  
IT ONLY  
REALLY  
WORKS IF  
SOMEONE  
HAS THE  
SAME  
BODY  
TYPE AS  
HER.

THIS IS  
A MAGIC  
SPELL  
THAT ONLY  
KASANE  
CAN USE.

YOU...YOU  
SWITCHED  
OUR  
FACES!

TH-THIS  
IS IMPOS-  
SIBLE!



HER  
ACTING  
IS  
BETTER  
THAN  
YOURS  
RIGHT  
NOW,  
ISN'T  
IT?

SHE  
JUST  
HAS TO  
USE HER  
POWERS  
TO GO  
ON STAGE  
WITH YOUR  
FACE ON.

IN  
OTHER  
WORDS  
...



!



YOU JUST  
WANT TO  
ACT FOR  
THE TITLE  
AND FAME,  
DON'T YOU?



IN  
OTHER  
WORDS  
...

YOU  
SAID THAT  
YOU CAN'T  
ACT, BUT  
YOU WANT  
TO CONTINUE  
ACTING.





BUT MY  
PROBLEMS  
ARE  
NOTHING  
COMPARED  
TO YOURS.

THEN  
YES,  
THAT'S  
ALL.

...IF YOU  
WANT  
TO BE  
BLUNT,



BUT  
YOU  
CAN'T  
EVEN  
READ  
OUT A  
SCRIPT  
WITH  
YOUR  
OWN  
FACE  
ON.

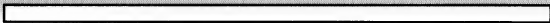
I CAN  
STILL  
BE ON  
STAGE,  
RIGHT  
NOW...



I'LL  
COOPERATE  
WITH YOU.

YOU  
WANT  
TO BE  
ON  
STAGE,  
DON'T  
YOU?  
WITH MY  
FACE?







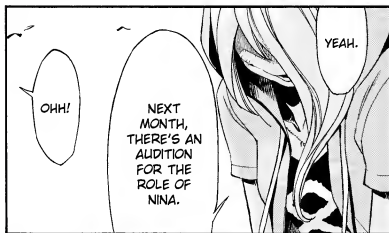
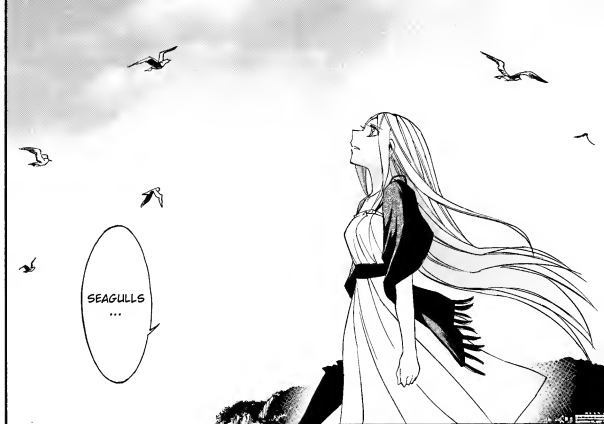
**I WANTED  
TO SEE THE  
SEAGULLS.**

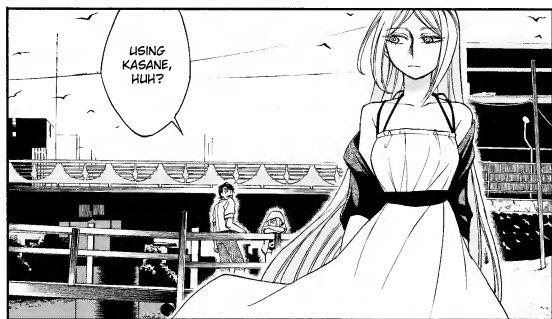


PLUS  
...

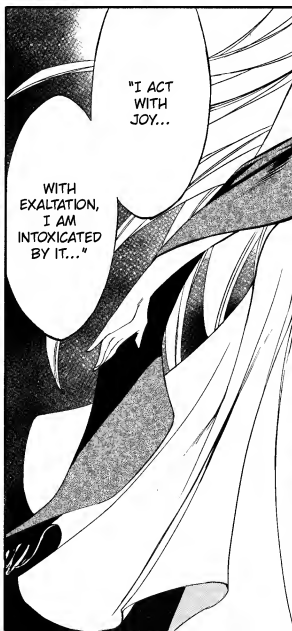


AT FIRST,  
KASANE  
SAID SHE  
WAS SCARED  
TO WALK  
AROUND IN  
THE MIDDLE  
OF DOWN-  
TOWN.









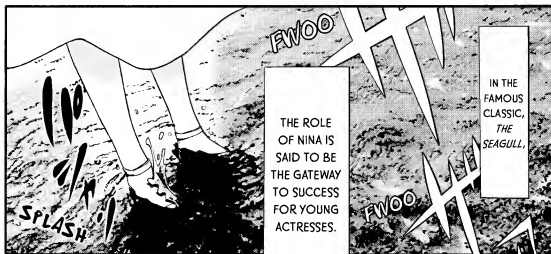


"...AND  
FEEL THAT  
I AM  
SUPERB!"



IF I REMEMBER...  
THE FIRST LEADING  
ROLE SUKEYO-SAN  
GOT WAS NINA,  
TOO!

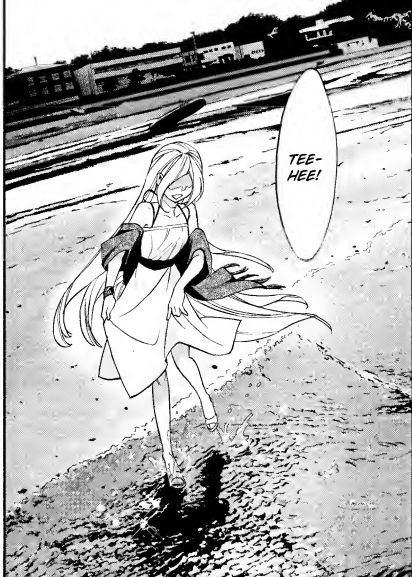
OH,  
YEAH  
...



THE ROLE  
OF NINA IS  
SAID TO BE  
THE GATEWAY  
TO SUCCESS  
FOR YOUNG  
ACTRESSES.

IN THE  
FAMOUS  
CLASSIC,  
THE  
SEAGULL,







Chapter Ten:  
the end



Chapter Eleven: Sleeping Beauty



A  
SEAGULL  
FALLEN  
TO THE  
GROUND.



FOUR  
YEARS  
AGO

URK...









IT'S  
ALSO  
KNOWN  
AS  
"SLEEP-  
ING  
BEAUTY  
SYN-  
DROME."

THE DOCTOR  
SAYS IT'S A  
KIND OF SLEEP  
DISORDER,  
ONE OF THE  
RAREST IN  
THE WORLD.



THAT  
WAS NOT  
THE FIRST  
TIME.

LET'S GO  
TO THE  
HOSPITAL  
AGAIN...



THIS WILL  
CONTINUE  
TO HAPPEN  
EVERY FEW  
MONTHS.

THEY WILL  
FALL ASLEEP  
SUDDENLY  
AND NOT  
AWAKEN FOR  
MONTHS.

WHILE THE  
AFFLICTED IS  
PHYSICALLY  
HEALTHY...



CONTINUE  
TAKING YOUR  
MEDICATION  
AND WE'LL  
SEE HOW IT  
GOES.

AND THEN  
COM-  
PLETELY  
PETERS  
OUT BY  
ADULT-  
HOOD.

BUT THE  
SYNDROME  
OFTEN FIRST  
FLARES UP  
DURING  
ADOLESCENCE  
...

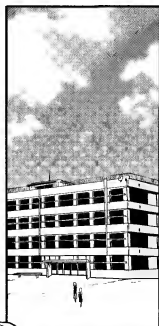
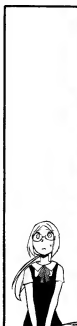
THE CAUSE  
IS UNKNOWN,  
AND THERE  
IS NO CLEAR  
COURSE OF  
TREATMENT,  
EITHER.





BUT I WAS  
BEHIND IN  
MY STUDIES,  
AND IT WAS  
INCREDIBLY  
DIFFICULT  
TO CATCH  
UP.

I  
STARTED  
HIGH  
SCHOOL  
IN JUNE  
...



WAS THAT  
I WASN'T  
ABLE TO  
MAKE  
FRIENDS.

BUT  
SO MUCH  
MORE  
PAINFUL  
THAN  
THAT...



THAT WAS  
A MAJOR  
DISADVANTAGE  
AT SCHOOL....

I DIDN'T  
HAVE ANY-  
THING IN  
COMMON  
TO TALK  
ABOUT.

SINCE  
I HAD NO  
MEMORY  
OF THE  
THINGS THAT  
HAPPENED  
DURING MY  
EPISODES...

HEY,  
WHAT  
EPISODE  
OF THAT  
SHOW ARE  
WE ON?

OH!  
AT THE  
BARBE-  
CUE?

NUMADA-  
SENSEI  
WAS SO  
FUNNY  
THE  
OTHER  
DAY!

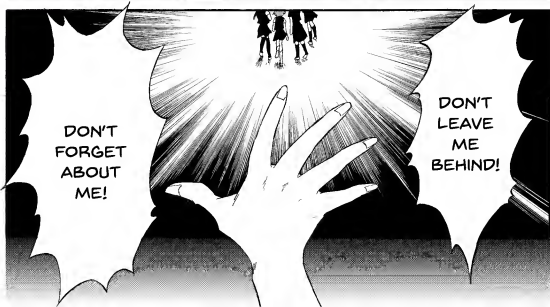
I DIDN'T  
KNOW WHAT  
EVERYONE  
ELSE WAS  
TALKING  
ABOUT.





AND SO,  
I ENDED UP  
COMPLETELY  
ALONE.

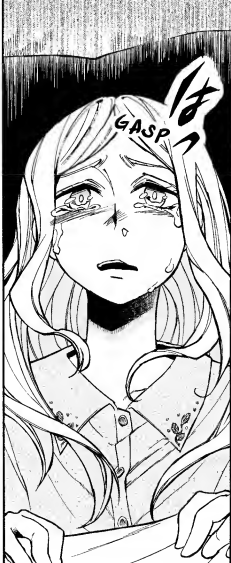




NOBODY  
REMEMBERS  
ME. I JUST  
KEEP ON  
BEING  
FORGOTTEN.

THIS  
TIME,  
I WAS  
OUT  
FOR  
THREE  
WEEKS.

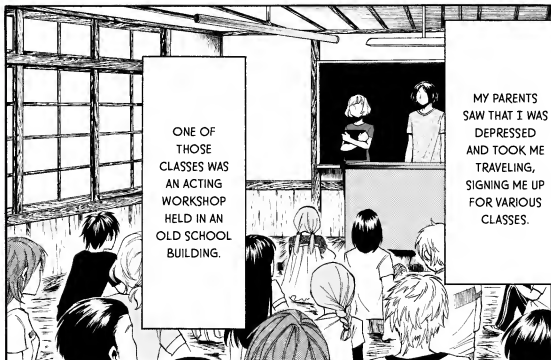
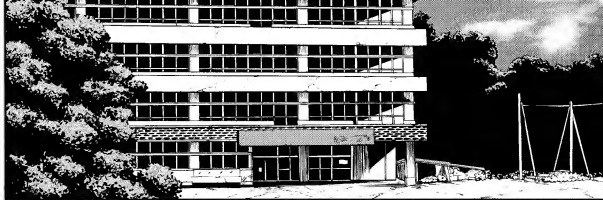
TIME GOES  
MARCHING  
ON EVEN  
IF I'M NOT  
THERE. THE  
WORLD  
KEEPS  
TURNING  
WITHOUT  
ME.



I CAN'T KEEP UP  
WITH MY STUDIES  
ANYMORE...

AFTER  
THAT, I  
STOPPED  
GOING TO  
SCHOOL.





ONE OF  
THOSE  
CLASSES WAS  
AN ACTING  
WORKSHOP  
HELD IN AN  
OLD SCHOOL  
BUILDING.

MY PARENTS  
SAW THAT I WAS  
DEPRESSED  
AND TOOK ME  
TRAVELING,  
SIGNING ME UP  
FOR VARIOUS  
CLASSES.



THIS  
WORKSHOP  
IS FOR BOTH  
PEOPLE  
WITH ACTING  
EXPERIENCE,  
AND TOTAL  
BEGINNERS.

I'M REITA  
UGOU, A  
FREELANCE  
STAGE  
DIRECTOR.



THAT WAS  
WHERE I  
MET HIM.



BUT  
THAT'S JUST  
LIKE BEING  
DEAD.

ONCE I  
FALL ASLEEP,  
MY VOICE, MY  
FACE, AND MY  
BODY WILL BE  
LEFT BEHIND,  
FORGOTTEN.

EXPRESSION...  
COMMUNICATION...  
I CAN'T.



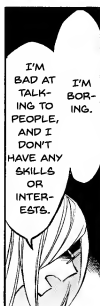
COME  
ON,  
LET'S  
GO  
BACK.

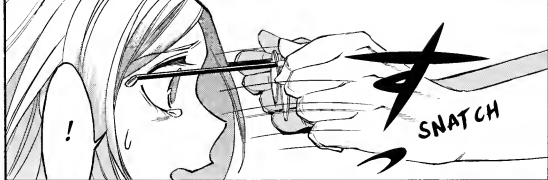
IT'S  
GET-  
TING  
DARK.  
  
YOUR  
MOTHER  
AND THE  
OTHERS  
HAVE BEEN  
LOOKING  
FOR YOU.



I-I  
FOUND  
YOU.











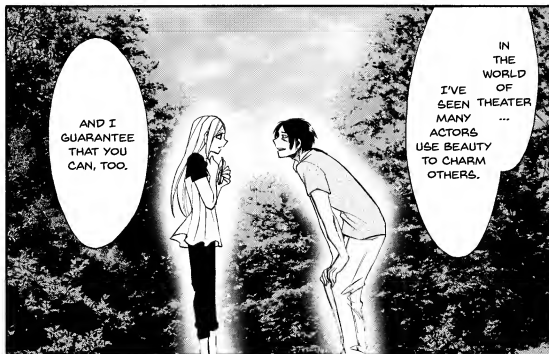
TRY  
SMILING  
AND  
SAYING  
SOME-  
THING.

I'M  
SURE  
YOU'LL  
CHARM  
EVERY-  
ONE.

YOUR  
BEAUTY  
WILL BE A  
POWERFUL  
WEAPON  
TO MAKE  
PEOPLE  
REMEMBER  
YOU.



THEN  
NOBODY WILL  
FORGET YOU.



AND I  
GUARANTEE  
THAT YOU  
CAN, TOO.

IN  
THE  
WORLD  
OF  
I'VE  
SEEN THEATER  
...  
MANY  
ACTORS  
USE BEAUTY  
TO CHARM  
OTHERS.

THAT  
MOMENT  
DETERMINED  
THE PATH  
MY LIFE  
WOULD  
TAKE.



MUST  
BE  
'CAUSE  
WE'RE  
CLOSE  
TO THE  
SEA.



WOW, I  
THOUGHT  
THOSE  
WERE  
CROWS,  
BUT  
THEY'RE  
ACTUALLY  
SEA-  
GULLS.



THIS  
WEAPON  
GROWS  
BRIGHTER  
THE MORE  
IT'S  
POLISHED  
...




HE HELPED  
ME REALIZE  
THE PATH THAT  
WOULD MAKE  
USE OF THE  
WEAPON THAT  
IS BEAUTY.



TODAY,  
I'VE NOT  
HAD ANY  
EPISODES  
FOR A  
YEAR  
NOW! I'M  
GETTING  
BETTER!

NEE-  
NA...

MOMMY,  
LISTEN!



AND  
WITH THIS  
WEAPON,  
I'LL  
BECOME  
UNFORGET-  
TABLE!



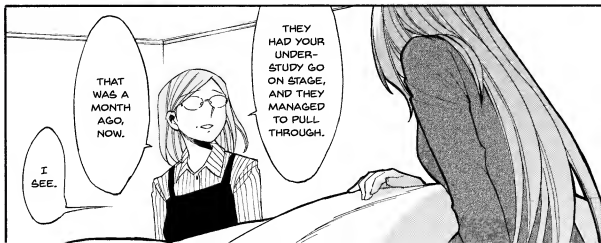
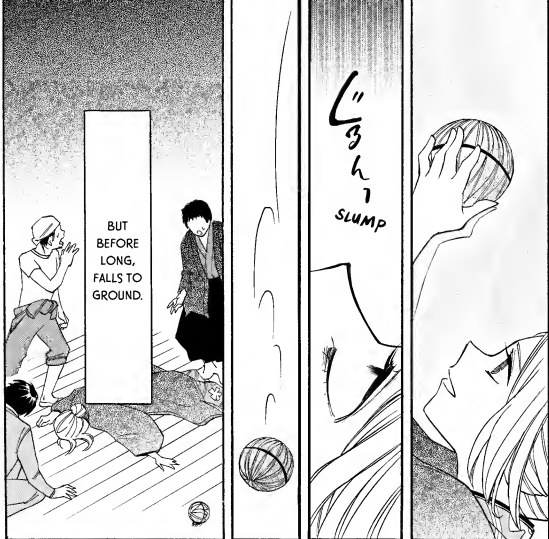
AND  
I'LL SEE  
UGOU-SAN...  
ONE MORE  
TIME!



THE SEAGULL  
FLIES HIGH IN  
THE SKY...

I'LL  
THANK  
HIM FOR  
THAT  
DAY!

I'LL  
GET A  
ROLE  
ON HIS  
STAGE!





I'LL BEAR  
ANYTHING  
BUT THAT!

AND  
I'LL STILL  
HAVE NOT  
SEEN HIM.

OR  
EVERYONE  
WILL  
FORGET  
ME AGAIN  
...

NO  
MATTER  
WHAT'S  
GOING ON  
IN TWO  
YEARS,  
I HAVE TO  
STAY ON  
STAGE.



EVEN  
IF...

ALL  
RIGHT.  
GO ON  
...



I'LL PUT  
NEENA  
TANZAWA  
ON STAGE,  
NO MATTER  
HOW I  
HAVE TO  
DO IT.



I'M  
NERVOUS.

OF  
COURSE  
YOU ARE.  
THIS  
IS AN  
AUDITION.



THIS  
IS IT.

AND  
NOW...

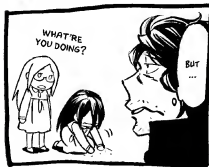


IT  
ISN'T  
ME.

KASANE!

**KASANE**

## GIRLS







Chapter Twelve: Reita Ugou



DON'T  
FORGET  
THAT MY  
FACE IS  
THE ONLY  
REASON  
YOU CAN  
EVEN BE  
SNARKY  
TO ME!



IF YOU  
GET THE  
ROLE, I'LL  
BE TAKING  
BACK THAT  
ARROGANT  
ATTITUDE,  
TOO.



EVEN  
IF I DID,  
IT'D STILL  
BE BETTER  
THAN *YOUR*  
ACTING.



DON'T  
MESS  
UP YOUR  
LINES!





IT'S  
NO  
BIG  
DEAL.

THANK  
YOU.

BY  
THE  
WAY  
...



HAS  
NEENA  
TOLD  
YOU  
ABOUT  
UGOU?

HABUTA-  
SAN, MY  
MOTHER-



AGH

THAT'S  
NOT  
VERY  
INTER-  
ESTING.

SHE  
TALKED  
ABOUT  
HOW SHE  
MET HIM  
DURING A  
WORKSHOP,  
AND HE  
TOLD HER  
SHE HAD A  
BEAUTIFUL  
FACE.



...

SHE  
TOLD  
ME A  
LITTLE.



I'LL  
ANSWER  
ANY  
QUESTIONS  
YOU HAVE,  
IF THEY'RE  
ABOUT THE  
AUDITION  
TODAY.

YOU  
NEVER  
ANSWER  
MY QUES-  
TIONS, DO  
YOU?



I  
WONDER  
WHAT  
REITA  
UGOU IS  
LIKE?



THAT  
PROBABLY  
MEANS  
THAT HE'S  
LOOKING FOR  
SOMETHING  
DIFFERENT  
FROM WHAT  
HE'S DONE  
BEFORE.

UNTIL  
NOW, HE  
FILLED  
ROLES FOR  
HIS PLAYS  
BY ASKING  
ACTORS  
DIRECTLY,  
BUT FOR THE  
ROLE OF NINA,  
HE'S HOLDING  
AUDITIONS  
INSTEAD.



I'VE  
NEVER  
BEEN IN  
CONTACT  
WITH HIM,  
SO I DON'T  
KNOW  
MUCH.

BUT I'VE  
HEARD THAT  
HE'S BEEN  
IN A RUT  
RECENTLY.



BUT  
YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO DO  
ANYTHING  
WEIRD.

I THINK  
YOU'RE  
GONNA  
HAVE TO  
SURPRISE  
HIM.

MAYBE  
REGULAR  
ACTING  
WON'T BE  
ENOUGH  
TO CUT IT,  
THEN.

SOMETHING  
DIFFERENT  
FROM WHAT  
HE'S DONE  
BEFORE?



JUST  
IMMERSE  
YOURSELF  
IN THE  
ROLE.

IN FACT,  
YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO  
THINK ABOUT  
BEING NEENA  
TANZAWA  
WHILE YOU'RE  
READING  
THE LINES.



DO YOU  
WANT TO  
BE HER  
FACSIMILE?

AS LONG  
AS I HAVE  
THIS FACE ON, I  
SHOULD ALWAYS  
BE CONSCIOUS  
OF BEING NEENA,  
SHOULDN'T I?



DO YOU  
THINK THAT  
SUKEYO  
FUCHI WAS  
SATISFIED  
JUST WITH  
BEING A  
COPY OF  
SOMEONE  
ELSE?



IF NOT  
THAT...  
THEN WHAT  
THE HELL  
SHOULD  
I BE?

WHAT  
DO YOU  
MEAN?

...

HEY...

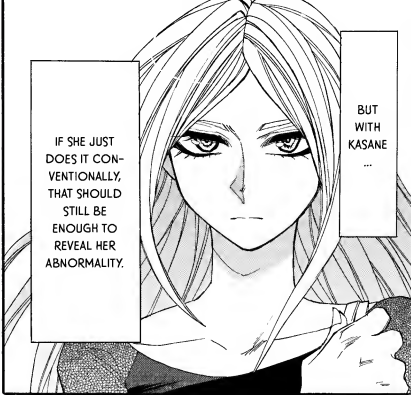
JUST A  
REMINDER:  
DO IT CON-  
VENTIONALLY,  
AND DON'T DO  
ANYTHING  
WEIRD.

I DON'T  
GET WHAT  
YOU MEAN.

WE'RE  
HERE.

ANY MORE  
TALKING IS  
A WASTE  
OF TIME.





IF SHE JUST  
DOES IT CON-  
VENTIONALLY,  
THAT SHOULD  
STILL BE  
ENOUGH TO  
REVEAL HER  
ABNORMALITY.

BUT  
WITH  
KASANE  
...



I DON'T  
KNOW IF  
SHE'S  
EXACTLY  
WHAT UGOW  
IS LOOKING  
FOR...



THANK  
YOU FOR  
HAVING ME  
TODAY.

NUMBER  
EIGHTEEN,  
AI INU-  
YAMA.



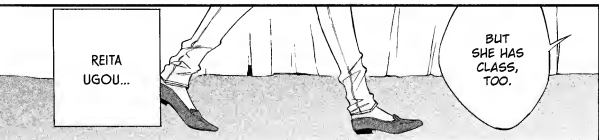
ALL  
RIGHT,  
THEN READ  
A LITTLE  
FROM THE  
SCRIPT.

...









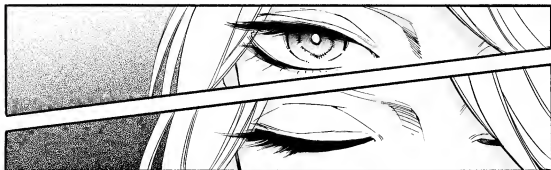


READ  
SOME  
LINES  
FOR  
ME.

WAS  
IT AN EX-  
PRESSION  
OF CON-  
FIDENCE?  
OR...



DID SHE  
JUST  
SNICKER?

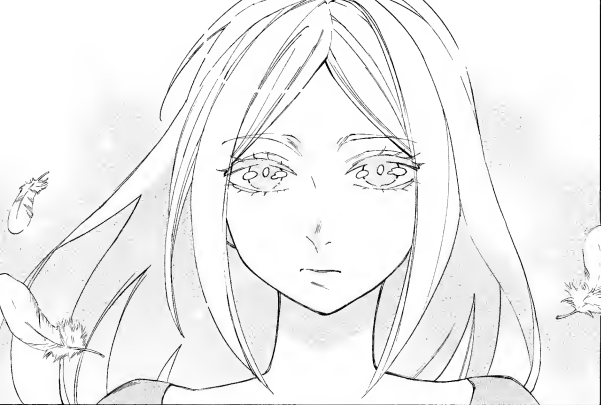


SHE WAS  
THE SHY TYPE.  
I NEVER EVEN  
SAW HER ACT;  
THE MOMENT  
WE GOT  
STARTED, SHE  
HAD RUN AWAY.



NOW THAT I  
THINK ABOUT  
IT, I MET A  
GIRL LIKE HER  
BACK WHEN  
I WAS DOING  
ALL THOSE  
WORKSHOPS...







"KON-  
STANTIN!"



BUT I  
DON'T KNOW  
JUST WHAT  
IT REALLY IS  
THAT SHE'S  
PROJECTING.  
WHAT IS SHE?

SHE'S  
NOT JUST  
BEAUTIFUL,  
AND NOT  
JUST  
TALENTED

SLAM



SHE'S  
OBSESSED  
WITH  
BECOMING  
AN IDEAL  
SOMEONE  
WHO IS NOT  
HERSELF.

KASANE  
PROJ-  
ECTS  
OBSES-  
SION.

THAT'S  
WHAT  
MAKES  
HER SO  
ABNOR-  
MAL.

HER  
ABNORMAL  
TALENT  
BLOSSOMED.

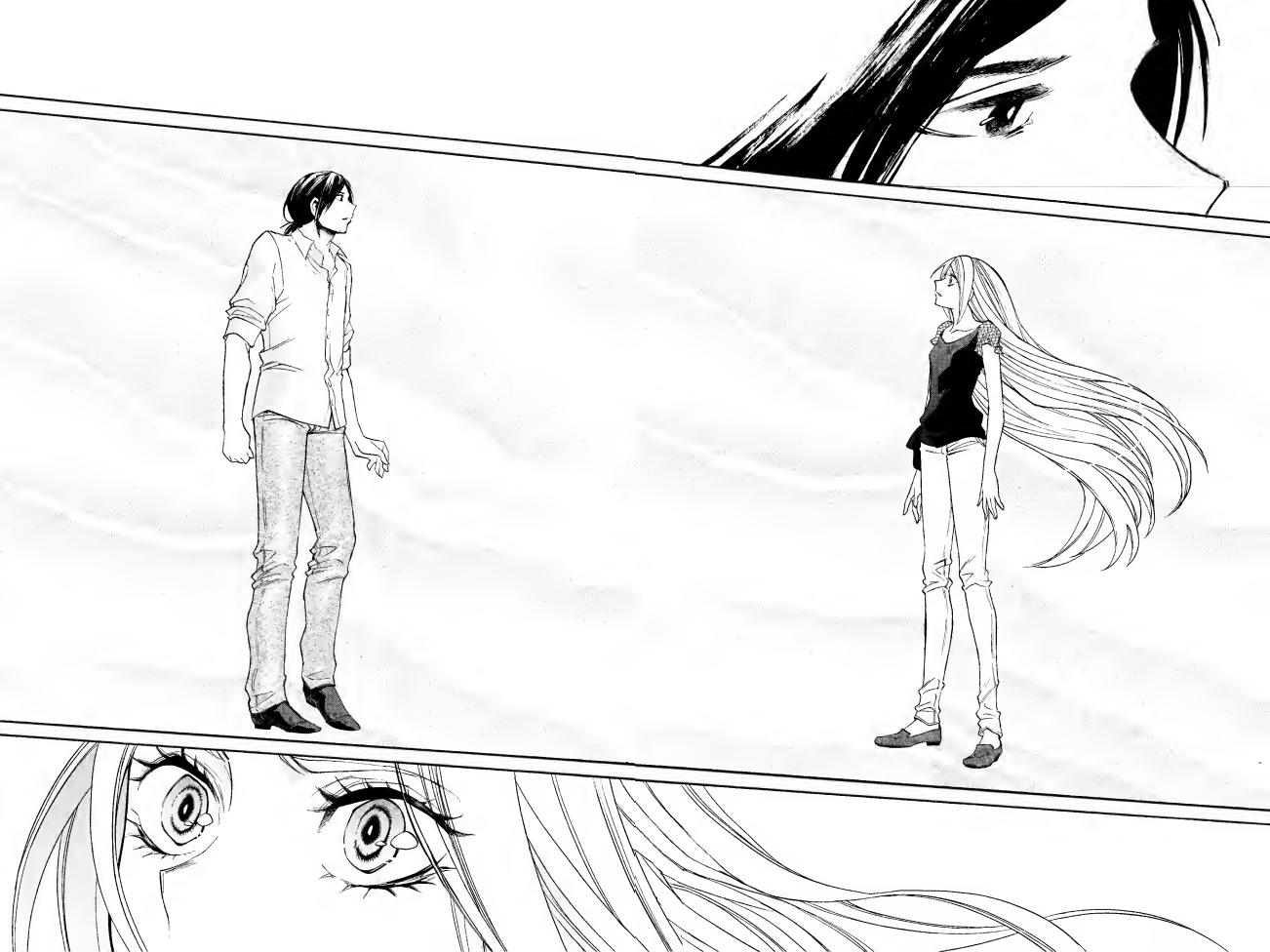
AND WHEN  
SHE HAS A WEAPON  
WITH WHICH TO  
REALIZE HER  
OBSESSIONS...



JUST  
LIKE HER  
MOTHER!











HEH  
HEH  
...

GREAK  
まっ



P-  
PAR-  
DON  
ME.



JERK



I  
LOOKED  
AWAY  
WITHOUT  
THINK-  
ING.  
WAS  
THAT  
INNATU-  
RAL?

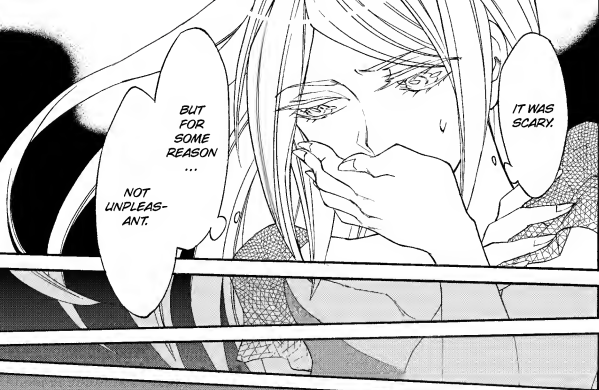
THAT  
WAS THE  
FIRST  
TIME...

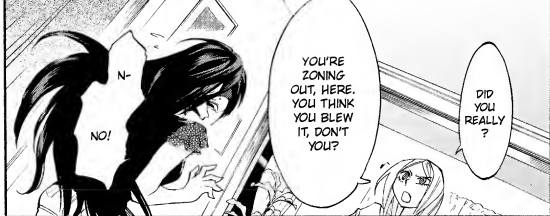
ANYONE'S  
EVER  
LOOKED  
AT ME LIKE  
THAT.



IT WAS  
LIKE HE WAS...  
REACHING  
INTO MY  
SOUL...

IT WAS  
DIFFERENT  
FROM THE  
APPRECIATIVE  
LOOKS THEY  
SHOWERED  
ME WITH WHEN  
I WAS ICHIKA  
AND IKU.

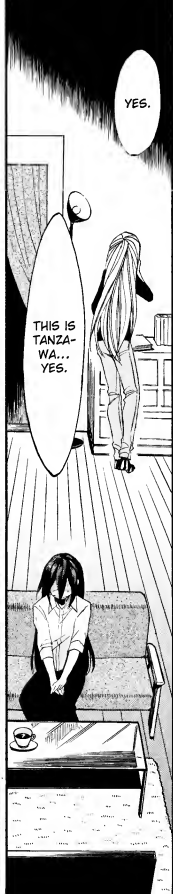


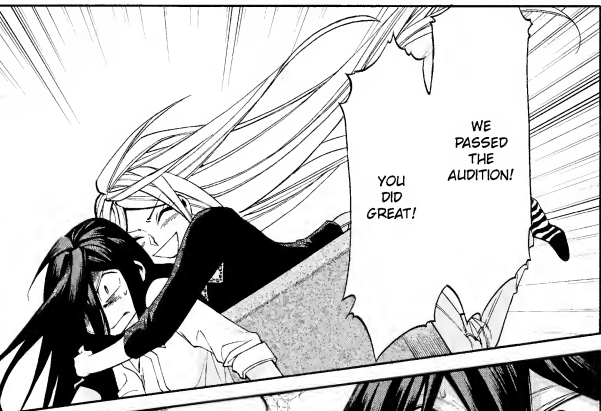
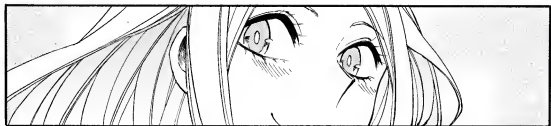


Chapter Twelve:  
the end



Chapter Thirteen: Encroaching





WE  
PASSED  
THE  
AUDITION!  
  
YOU  
DID  
GREAT!

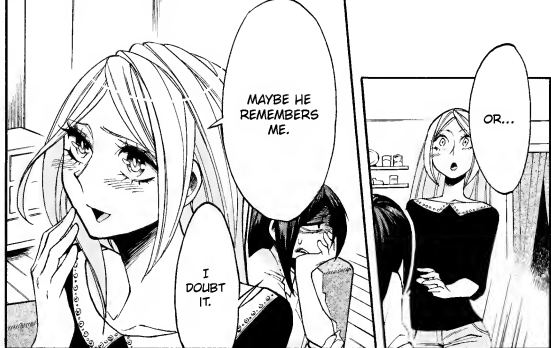


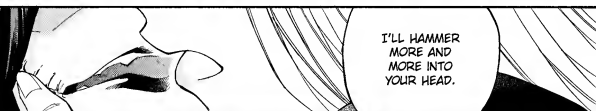
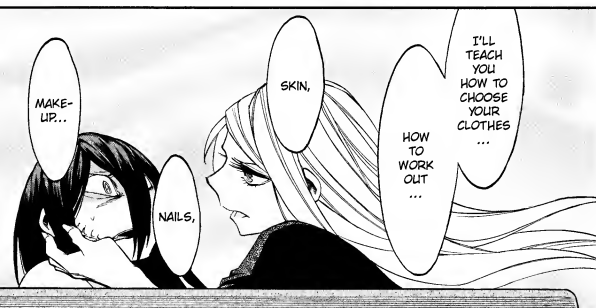
WE  
PASSED...



THAT  
MEANS THAT  
UGOLU-SAN HAS  
RECOGNIZED  
MY LOOKS  
AND YOUR  
ACTING!

YEAH!









...MORN-  
ING.



GOOD  
MORN-  
ING!

GOOD  
MORN-  
ING!



I  
SUPPOSE  
THAT'S  
THE STRUG-  
GLE OF A  
CUTTING-  
EDGE  
CREATIVE.

HE'S  
CHANGED  
OVER THE  
PAST FEW  
YEARS.

The  
atmosphere  
here has been  
heavy since  
day one.

IS  
HE ALL  
RIGHT?



CLACK

GOOD  
MORN-  
ING.



THAT'S THE NO-NAME ACTRESS WHO GAVE SUCH AN EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE.

HUH... SHE'S CERTAINLY BEAUTIFUL ENOUGH FOR TREPLIEFF TO FALL IN LOVE WITH.

In fact, is he actually falling for her, or what?



I'M NEENA TANZAWA. IT'S GOOD TO MEET YOU ALL.



YOU  
LOOK  
A TOUCH  
MORE  
REFINED  
THAN  
YOU DID  
DURING  
THE  
AUDITION.

I'M  
SUR-  
PRISED.

...

o-



SINCE  
YOU  
MET ME,  
WE'VE  
POLISHED  
UP YOUR  
PRIDE  
TOGETHER,  
HAVEN'T  
WE?

IT  
MIGHT  
BE WEIRD  
FOR ME TO  
SAY THIS  
MYSELF,  
BUT IT'S  
BECAUSE  
I'VE  
ALWAYS  
HAD A  
PRETTY  
FACE.



IS THAT ALL  
RIGHT? IT  
DOESN'T  
MATTER IF  
I'M BEING  
OBVIOUS. I  
JUST HAVE TO  
BE MODEST.



か  
あ  
BLUSH

OH...  
NOT AT  
ALL...



BUT  
YOU CAN'T  
MAKE  
IT LOOK  
LIKE YOU  
WORKED  
HARD  
FOR IT.

YOU'VE  
CORRECTED  
YOUR  
POSTURE  
AND THE  
WAY YOU  
WALK.

YOU  
LEARNED  
HOW  
TO DO  
MAKE-  
UP...  
  
AND YOU  
DROPPED  
A LITTLE  
EXCESS  
WEIGHT  
AROUND  
THE  
WAIST.



AND  
THE  
HEELS  
MAKE  
YOUR  
FEET  
SCREAM.

EVEN IF  
YOUR  
CLOTHES  
ARE  
STRANGLING  
YOU...

YOU HAVE  
TO WALK  
AROUND WITH  
A LOOK ON  
YOUR FACE  
THAT SAYS,  
"THIS IS  
EFFORT-  
LESS."

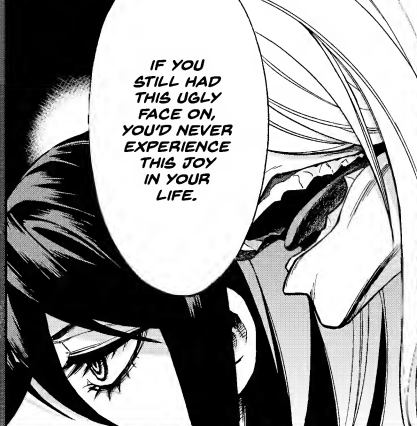


CALLING  
SOMETHING  
THIS  
BLESSED  
"TOUGH" IS  
A LUXURY.

IT'S QUITE  
FUN TO SEE  
THE EFFORT  
PUT INTO MY  
APPEARANCE  
BEING  
REWARDED  
SO QUICKLY  
...

TOUGH?

SO?  
BEING  
BEAUTIFUL  
IS TOUGH  
TOO, ISN'T  
IT?



IF YOU  
STILL HAD  
THIS UGLY  
FACE ON,  
YOU'D NEVER  
EXPERIENCE  
THIS JOY  
IN YOUR  
LIFE.



I SEE...  
OF  
COURSE.



...EX-  
ACTLY.



THERE  
ARE NO  
PAGES  
OUT OF  
ORDER  
IN THE  
SCRIPT I  
HAND-  
ED OUT?

LET'S  
GET  
STRAIGHT  
TO READ-  
ING THE  
SCRIPT.

AND BEYOND  
THE REWARDS  
THAT CAME  
WITH THE  
EFFORT PUT  
INTO MY  
APPEARANCE,  
THERE WAS  
MORE.



"THEN LET  
THEM NOW  
SHOW US THAT  
NOTHINGNESS."

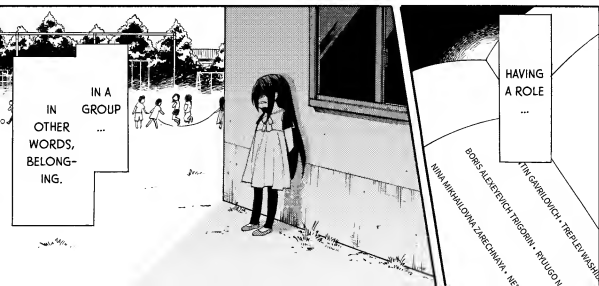
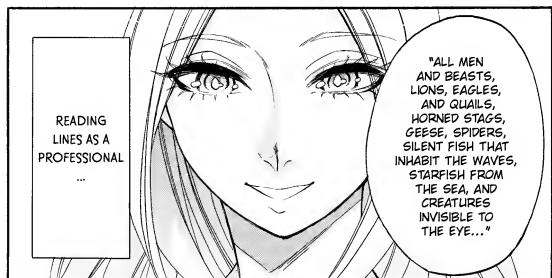
BEING  
HERE...

"YES,  
LET THEM-  
WE ARE  
ASLEEP."



READING  
LINES AS A  
PROFESSIONAL  
...

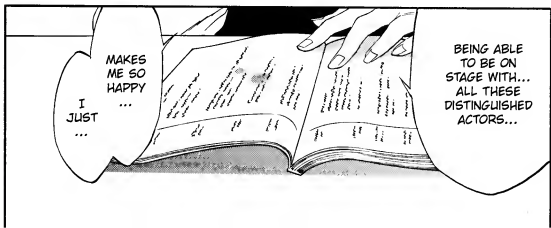
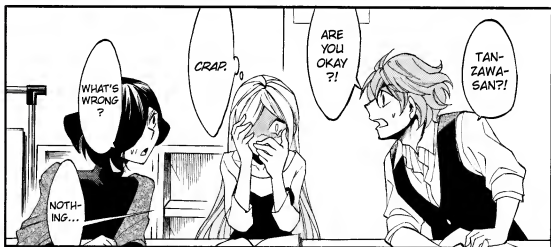
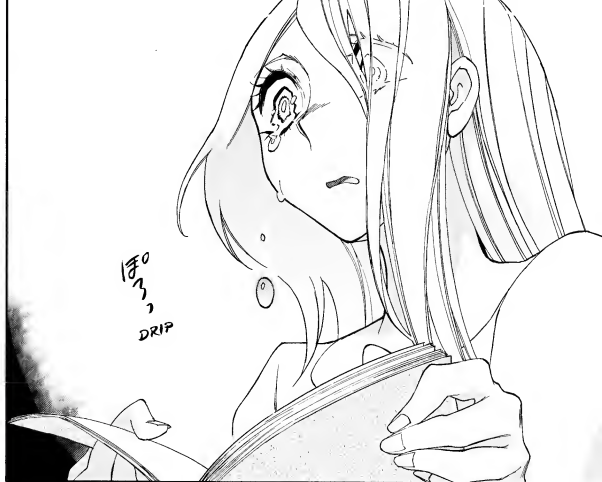
"ALL MEN  
AND BEASTS,  
LIONS, EAGLES,  
AND QUAILS,  
HORNED STAGS,  
GEESE, SPIDERS,  
SILENT FISH THAT  
INHABIT THE WAVES,  
STARFISH FROM  
THE SEA, AND  
CREATURES  
INVISIBLE TO  
THE EYE..."



IN A  
GROUP  
...  
IN  
OTHER  
WORDS,  
BELONG-  
ING.

HAVING  
A ROLE  
...

TIN GARRILOVICH • TREPLEV NASH  
BORIS ALEXEYEVICH TRIGORIN • PRUGON  
NINA MIKHAILOVNA ZARECHNAYA • NE









I-I  
DIDN'T  
MAKE  
HER  
CRY!



STOP  
THAT,  
UGOU-  
SAN!

HUH?  
CRYING  
AGAIN?



AND  
CONSUME  
NEENA  
TANZAWA!

I JUST  
HAVE TO  
KEEP  
GOING...  
KEEP  
GOING  
FULL  
SPEED...

THAT MY  
FACE STOLE  
FROM ME IN  
ADVANCE

I'M SURE  
I'LL SOON  
BE ABLE TO  
REACH THE  
HAPPINESS...







ALL THIS  
TWITCHING  
AND  
JUMPING,  
NO WONDER  
SHE PUT  
ON THAT  
BELLY  
FAT.

WITH THIS  
FACE, EVEN  
JUST GOING  
OUT FOR A  
BIT GETS  
ANNOYING.



SO THERE'S  
NO NEED TO  
WORRY.

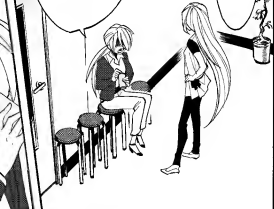
BUT  
THIS ISN'T  
MY FACE.



NOTABLY, NINA



THERE'S NO  
NEED FOR ME  
TO CONCERN  
MYSELF ABOUT  
IT... BUT...



I CAN'T  
LET  
MYSELF BE  
BOtherED  
BY THIS...

NEENA,  
ABOUT  
THIS  
PART  
...

OH  
...  
HI..

THIS  
IS MY  
ASSIS-  
TANT.

THEN  
FROM  
ACT  
FOUR  
...

UGOL-  
SAN.

TH-  
THANK  
YOU  
FOR  
HAVING  
ME.

ALL  
OF IT.

IT WILL  
ALL COME  
BACK TO ME.

"I  
HAVE  
NOT  
CRIED  
FOR  
TWO  
YEARS.  
  
I WENT  
INTO THE  
GARDEN  
LAST  
NIGHT  
TO SEE  
IF OUR  
OLD  
THEATRE  
WERE  
STILL  
STANDING."

I SHALL  
FEEL  
BETTER  
AFTER  
THIS."

"IT IS  
ALL  
RIGHT.

"NINA!  
YOU  
ARE  
CRYING  
AGAIN,  
NINA!"



I DON'T  
SEE HER FOR  
A WHILE,  
AND SHE'S  
ALREADY  
SO...

WHAT  
THE  
HELL?

I'VE  
NEVER  
SEEN AN  
ACTRESS  
LIKE  
HER.

I FEEL  
THAT SHE  
HAS A  
STYLE OF  
HER VERY  
OWN.

I  
DON'T  
UNDER-  
STAND  
ITS  
TRUE  
NATURE  
YET ...  
BUT I  
DOUBT  
IT'S  
SOME-  
THING  
ANYONE  
CAN  
IMITATE.





"A  
STYLE  
"SOME- HER  
THING NO VERY  
NO ONE OWN"  
CAN IMI-  
TATE"? ?

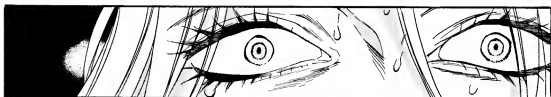


THAT  
MEANS

...

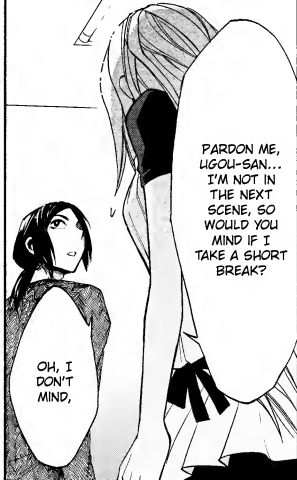








YOUR  
ASSISTANT  
SEEMED ILL.  
IS SHE  
OKAY?



PARDON ME,  
UGOU-SAN...  
I'M NOT IN  
THE NEXT  
SCENE, SO  
WOULD YOU  
MIND IF I  
TAKE A SHORT  
BREAK?

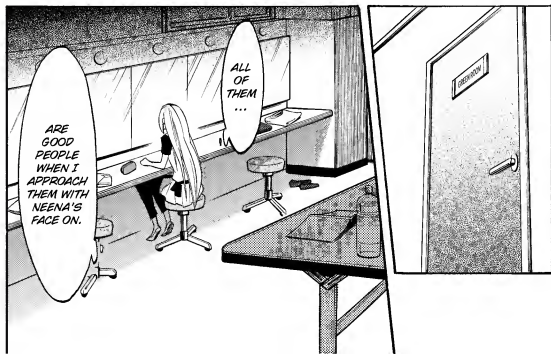
OH, I  
DON'T  
MIND,



YEAH  
...

I MEAN,  
SHE  
DIDN'T  
SEEM  
ALL  
RIGHT.

TH-THANK  
YOU FOR  
YOUR  
CONCERN.



ARE  
GOOD  
PEOPLE  
WHEN I  
APPROACH  
THEM WITH  
NEENA'S  
FACE ON.

ALL  
OF  
THEM  
...

PRODUCTION

IF I STILL HAD  
MY ORIGINAL  
FACE, THEY'D  
BE LAUGHING  
AT ME BEHIND  
MY BACK, AND  
IT'D BE OVER.

THEIR  
INDIRECT  
BUT STILL  
DISPARAGING  
REMARKS.

THOSE  
RESERVED  
SNEERS...

HEH

SO  
THAT'S  
HOW  
ADULTS  
LAUGH AT  
SOMEONE.

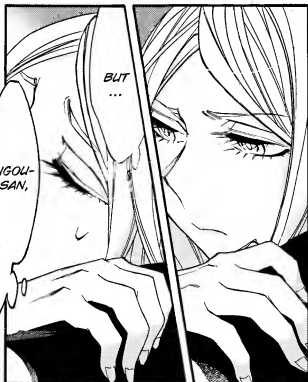


YOU  
WERE  
THE ONLY  
ONE WHO  
DIDN'T  
LAUGH!

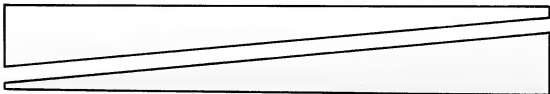
LIGOU-  
SAN,

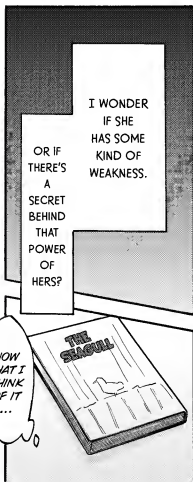
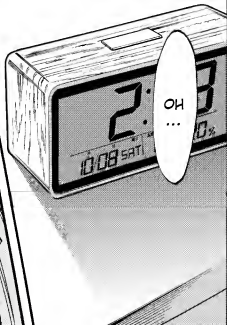
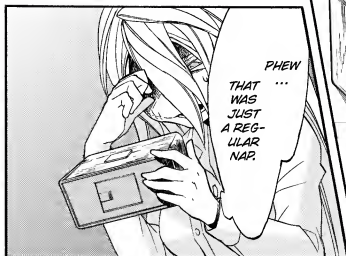
YOU...

BUT  
...







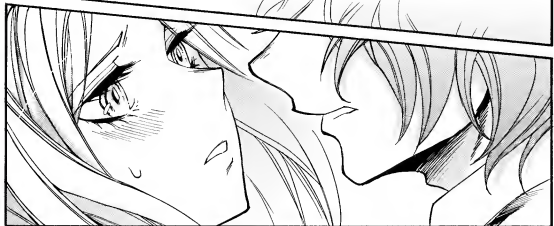






WITH  
THAT  
POWER  
OF HERS,  
JUST HOW  
DOES SHE  
PLAN TO  
HANDLE  
THAT?

THERE  
WAS A  
KISS  
SCENE  
IN THE  
SEAGULL,  
WASN'T  
THERE?



N-NOT  
AT ALL!  
I'M  
SORRY!

LI-UM...IT'S  
NOT THAT  
YOU JUST  
CAN'T BRING  
YOURSELF  
TO KISS ME,  
RIGHT?





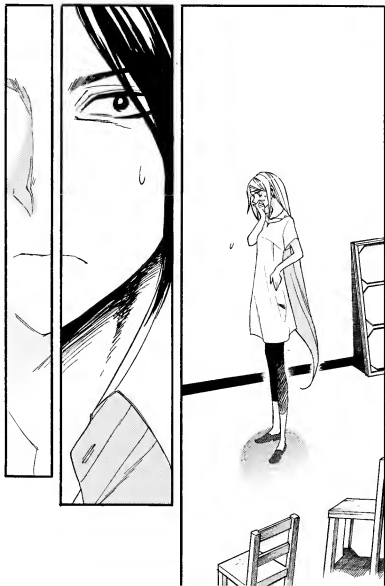
I AM  
WORRIED  
ABOUT  
THE  
PACING,  
THOUGH.

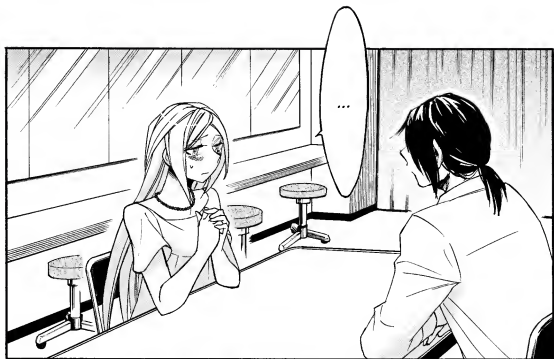
WELL,  
AS LONG  
AS YOU  
CAN DO IT  
DURING  
THE PER-  
FORMANCE,  
I DON'T  
MIND.

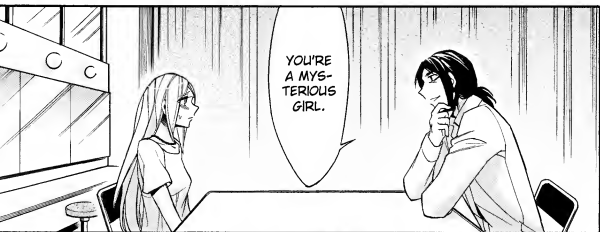
OKAY  
...



NEENA,  
IS THERE  
A REASON  
YOU'RE  
HAVING  
TROUBLE  
WITH THE  
KISS  
SCENE?  
  
YOU'RE  
HANDLING  
EVERY-  
THING  
ELSE  
JUST  
FINE.









AND  
YOU LOOK  
CAREFREE,  
BUT YOU'RE  
A SERIOUS  
LATE-  
BLOOMER.

YOU ACT  
FRIENDLY,  
BUT YOU  
DON'T  
OPEN YOUR  
HEART TO  
ANYONE.

YOU SEEM  
LIKE THE  
QUIET TYPE,  
BUT YOUR  
STRENGTH  
SHOWS IN  
YOUR PER-  
FORMANCE.



HE  
SEES  
IT.

I'VE NEVER  
MET ANYONE  
LIKE YOU  
BEFORE.

HE'S  
GOOD...

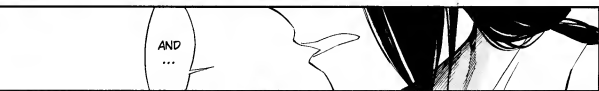


BUT IT'S  
MAKING  
THEATER  
BORING  
FOR ME.

MAYBE  
I'VE  
JUST  
BEEN  
LUCKY  
...

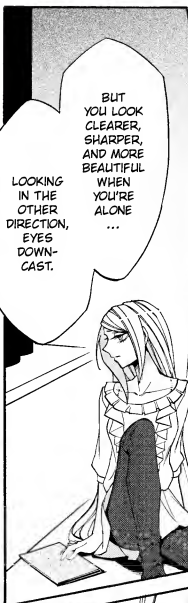
TO BE  
FRANK, MY  
DIRECTORIAL  
CAREER HAS  
BEEN GOING  
AS WELL AS  
I'D ALWAYS  
EXPECTED-  
TOO WELL.

YOU'RE  
REALLY  
INTRIGU-  
ING TO  
ME.





I THINK  
YOUR SOUL  
IS SOME-  
WHERE  
UNKNOWN  
TO ANYONE.



LOOKING  
IN THE  
OTHER  
DIRECTION,  
EYES  
DOWN-  
CAST.

BUT  
YOU LOOK  
CLEARER,  
SHARPER,  
AND MORE  
BEAUTIFUL  
WHEN  
YOU'RE  
ALONE  
...

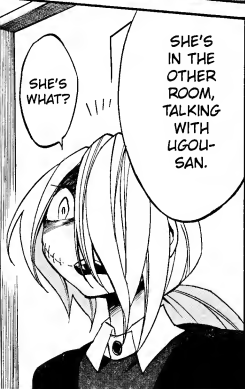


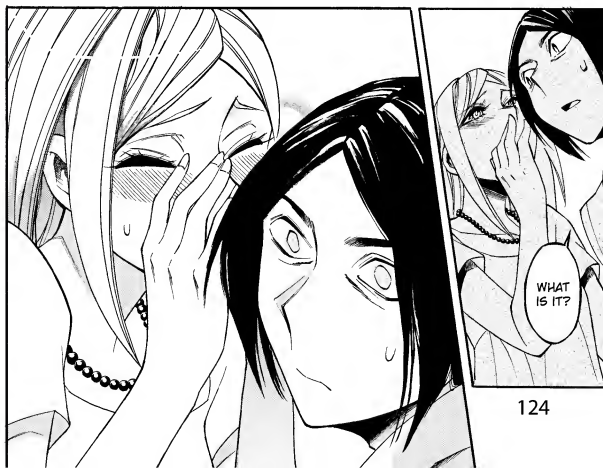
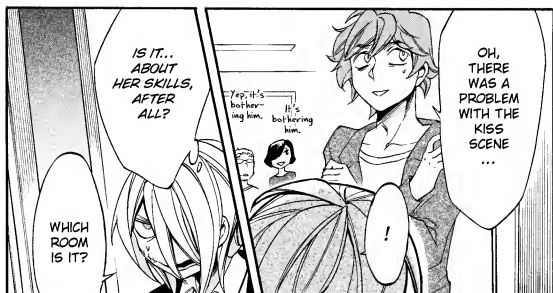
I'VE  
SEEN YOU  
SMILING  
CHEERFULLY  
WITH  
EVERYONE  
ELSE,



IS IT ME  
HE'S SEEING,  
UNDER THIS  
FACE?

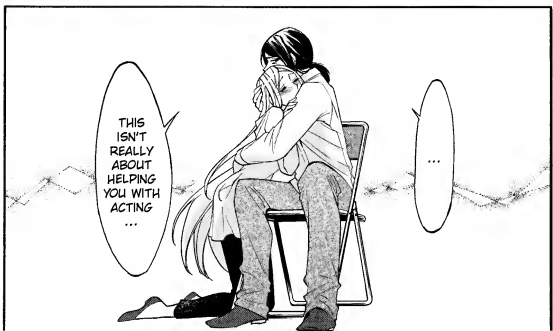
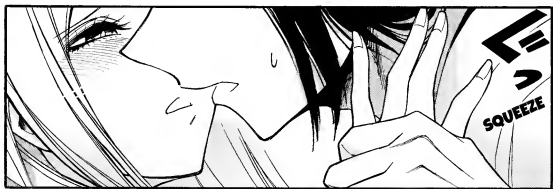
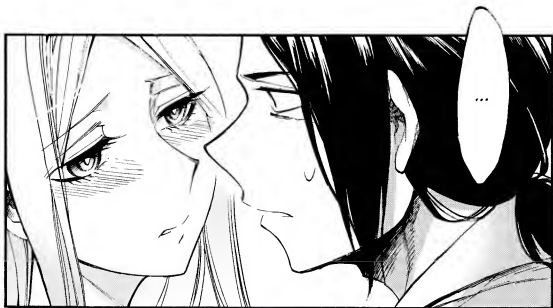
HE...  
UGOU-SAN...  
HE ISN'T  
SEEING  
NEENA...











C-  
CALM  
DOWN!

THIS  
ISN'T  
THE  
TIME  
TO  
BE  
CRY-  
ING!

YOU  
HAVE  
TO  
DO  
SOME-  
THING!

SLUMP

...IS  
IT?

WAIT  
...

SOME-  
THING  
...

THEY KISSED,  
BUT NOTHING'S  
HAPPENED?!

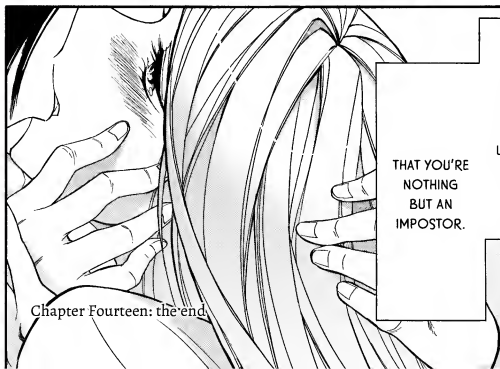


I ALWAYS  
THOUGHT IT  
WAS ODD...  
SHE PUTS ON  
THAT CREEPY  
LIPSTICK EVERY  
TIME, EVEN  
THOUGH IT  
WOULD ONLY  
COME OFF  
ANYWAY.

IF THAT'S  
THE SOURCE  
OF YOUR  
POWER,  
KASANE...



...



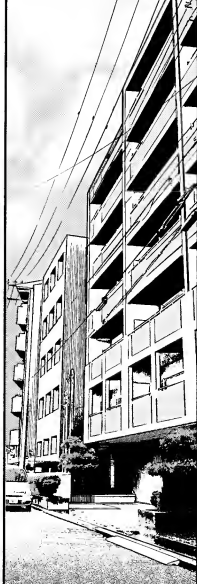
THAT YOU'RE  
NOTHING  
BUT AN  
IMPOSTOR.

THEN  
I'LL  
MAKE  
YOU  
UNDER-  
STAND  
...

Chapter Fourteen: the end



Chapter Fifteen: Incurring Her Wrath





IT'S MORE  
IMPORTANT  
TO FOCUS  
ON YOUR  
ACTING.

DON'T  
WORRY  
ABOUT  
IT.



THEY'RE  
ALL  
SWEATY.

I'LL  
WASH  
THE  
CLOTHES  
BEFORE  
I GIVE  
THEM TO  
YOU.



UM...  
NEENA.

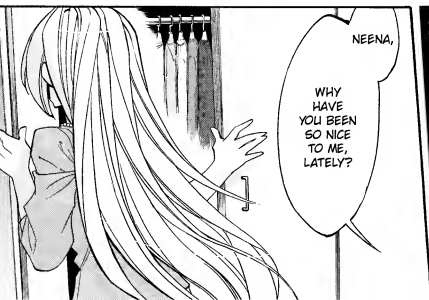
HM?

ク  
ツ  
...  
CLICK



THANK  
YOU.

...



NEENA,

WHY  
HAVE  
YOU BEEN  
SO NICE  
TO ME,  
LATELY?





YOU  
PROBABLY  
JUST DON'T  
EXPERIENCE  
THAT MUCH.

THIS  
IS HOW  
PEOPLE  
NORMALLY  
INTERACT.

I'M NOT  
TRYING TO  
BE PAR-  
TICULARLY  
NICE.



...



THAT'S  
RUDE.

I THOUGHT  
YOU WERE  
A SCARIER  
SORT OF  
PERSON.

I'M  
ACTUALLY  
AS KIND AS  
THE VIRGIN  
MARY, YOU  
KNOW.

OR DID  
YOU THINK  
I WAS  
MORE OF  
A BITCH?

THE  
VIRGIN  
MARY?

WHAT'RE  
YOU  
GIGGLING  
ABOUT?

TEE-  
HEE!







BECAUSE  
I HAVE  
TRUST  
ISSUES?

OR  
DO I  
JUST  
FEEL  
THAT  
WAY...



SHE'S  
ACTING  
DIFFERENT-  
LY FROM  
BEFORE...  
IT SEEMS  
OFF.



I'LL  
SEE YOU  
LATER,  
THEN.

SEE  
YOU.



WHAT  
ON EARTH  
IS NEENA  
TANZAWA  
THINKING  
?

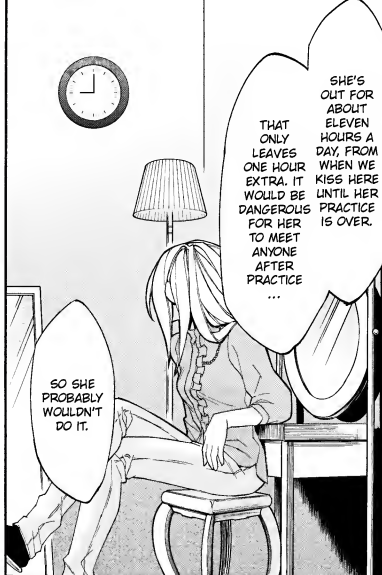
BUT STILL, IT  
BOTHERS ME THAT SHE  
DOESN'T SAY ANYTHING  
ABOUT MY LIPSTICK.  
I PUT IT ON EVERY DAY.  
SHE SHOULD THINK  
THAT'S WEIRD.



THAT  
SOUNDS  
SO  
FISHY.

WHAT  
THE HELL  
IS THIS  
"MEMENTO"  
OF HER  
MOTHER?





THAT  
ONLY  
LEAVES  
ONE HOUR  
EXTRA. IT  
WOULD BE  
DANGEROUS  
FOR HER  
TO MEET  
ANYONE  
AFTER  
PRACTICE  
...

SHE'S  
OUT FOR  
ABOUT  
ELEVEN  
HOURS A  
DAY, FROM  
WHEN WE  
KISS HERE  
UNTIL HER  
PRACTICE  
IS OVER.

SO SHE  
PROBABLY  
WOULDN'T  
DO IT.

THE TRANS-  
FORMATION  
HOLDS FOR  
AN AVERAGE  
OF TWELVE  
HOURS.

KASANE  
AND I  
EXPERI-  
MENTED  
BEFORE-  
HAND TO  
FIND THAT  
OUT.



BITE

BEFORE THEIR  
RELATIONSHIP  
GROWS ANY  
DEEPER...

BUT  
ANYWAY,  
I HAVE  
NO TIME.

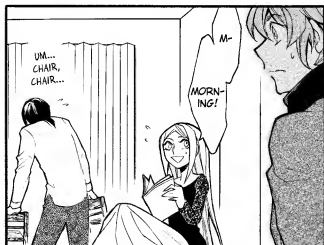


KASANE  
IS JUST AN  
ILLUSION  
THAT ONLY  
EVER EXISTS  
ON STAGE!

I WILL BE  
THE ONE THAT  
UGOU-SAN  
REMEMBERS.











IT'S  
GOOD TO  
SEE YOU  
AGAIN.



NEENA-  
CHAN'S  
ASSISTANT  
IS ASKING  
FOR YOU.

SHE  
SAYS NOT  
TO TELL  
NEENA-  
CHAN.



SURE.

OH,  
IS THAT  
ALL?

YOU  
WANT...MY  
NUMBER?



NEENA  
DOESN'T HAVE  
A CELL PHONE,  
SO IF SOMETHING  
COMES UP, I'LL  
CONTACT YOU.

THANK  
YOU VERY  
MUCH.



A  
GLANCE



NO.

SEE  
YOU  
LATER.



...IS  
THERE  
SOME-  
THING  
ELSE?



DON'T  
YOU  
THINK  
THEY'RE  
ALIKE?

WA-  
SHIDA-  
KUN,



I MEAN,  
THEY LOOK  
DIFFERENT,  
BUT THEIR  
EXPRESSIONS  
AND MANNER-  
ISMS ARE THE  
SAME.

WHAT  
?!

SHE'S  
LIKE  
NEENA.


LIKE  
WHO?



I-I  
HAVE  
NO  
IDEA  
...

THEY'RE  
INTEREST-  
ING...BOTH  
OF THEM  
ARE INTER-  
ESTING.

I WON-  
DER IF  
THEY'RE  
RELAT-  
ED?  
  
OR  
IS SHE  
IMITATING  
NEENA  
DELIBER-  
ATELY?



REHEARSALS FOR  
THE SEAGULL  
WERE ENTERING  
THE FINAL PHASE,  
TWO WEEKS  
BEFORE THE  
PERFORMANCE.



I  
MADE IT  
THROUGH  
THE KISS  
SCENE.



YOUR  
NINA  
GETS  
MORE  
BRILLIANT  
EVERY  
DAY.

NINA, THE  
PRETTY AND  
INNOCENT  
GIRL FROM  
THE RUSSIAN  
COUNTRY-  
SIDE...



SOARS  
LIKE A  
SEAGULL  
...

IT'S  
THANKS  
TO YOU,  
UGOU-  
SAN.

I  
JUST  
KNOW  
...

IT'S  
BECAUSE  
I FELL IN  
LOVE.

SO...



NEVER  
KNOW-  
ING  
WHAT  
WAITS  
AT THE  
END OF  
HER  
FLIGHT.

NEE-  
NA...  
THANK  
YOU.

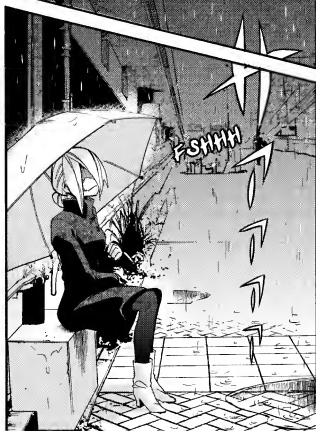
AFTER  
THIS  
WE'LL  
MEET  
AT...

I  
WANT  
TO  
MAKE  
SURE  
...

IF I  
REALLY  
CAN BE  
IN LOVE  
WITH  
SOMEONE  
I FEEL  
FOR.

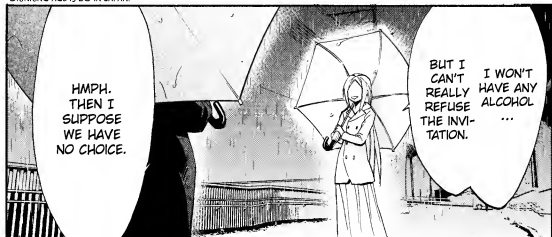
TONIGHT,  
I'LL MAKE  
SOME TIME  
FOR YOU.

!

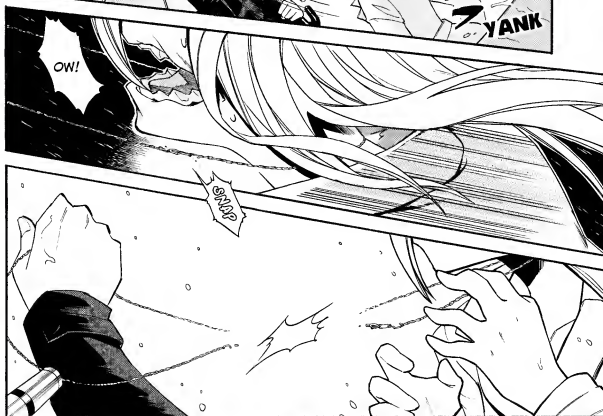




\*DRINKING AGE IS 20 IN JAPAN.













**YOU'RE  
JUST A  
FAKE!**



**KNOW  
YOUR  
PLACE!**

**...!**



NOT  
YOU.

I WILL  
BE GOING  
OUT...

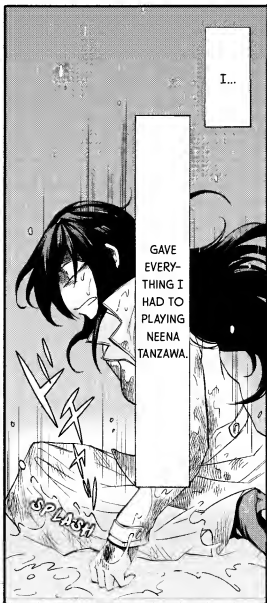






















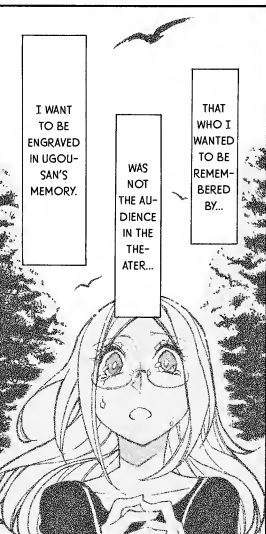
BACK  
THEN...

I  
DIDN'T  
EVEN  
CONSID-  
ER IT.

IT'S  
BETTER  
TO HAVE  
HER GET  
USED TO  
ACTING  
AS ME ON  
A DAILY  
BASIS,  
RIGHT?

WHAT'RE  
YOU SO  
ANXIOUS  
ABOUT?

WELL,  
I COULD  
TELL THAT  
MUCH FROM  
SEEING YOUR  
ACTING RE-  
CENTLY.  
BUT  
STILL...



I WANT  
TO BE  
ENGRAVED  
IN UGOU-  
SAN'S  
MEMORY.

WAS  
NOT  
THE AU-  
DIENCE  
IN THE  
THE-  
ATER...

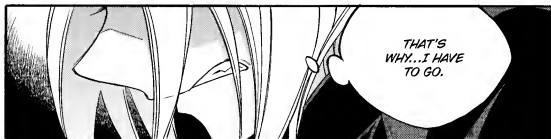
THAT  
WHO I  
WANTED  
TO BE  
REMEM-  
BERED  
BY...



WHEN  
I SAW  
THEM  
KISS, I  
REAL-  
IZED...



THAT  
WAS MY  
ONE  
MISCAL-  
CULA-  
TION!



THAT'S  
WHY...I HAVE  
TO GO.



I'LL  
PREVENT  
KASANE  
FROM  
EXPOSING  
HERS TO  
HIM.

SO IF I  
HAVE HIM  
REMEMBER  
MY BODY  
FIRST...

OUR  
BODIES  
STAY  
OUR  
OWN.

THE  
POWER  
OF THE  
LIPSTICK  
ONLY  
SWITCHES  
OUR  
FACES.



BUT EVEN  
SO, IF THE  
MEMORY OF  
ME—NOT  
KASANE—  
REMAINS  
INSIDE HIM...

IF I FALL  
ASLEEP,  
AND WE NO  
LONGER HAVE  
A PHYSICAL  
RELATIONSHIP,  
OUR LOVE  
MIGHT FALL  
APART...



SO EVEN IF  
I HAVE AN  
EPISODE,  
KASANE  
WON'T  
SLEEP  
WITH HIM...

EVEN  
IF SHE  
HAS  
MY  
FACE.



AND  
ETERNAL.

IT  
WILL  
BE  
VIVID  
...

EVEN IF  
THIS EVENT  
ONLY  
LASTS A  
MOMENT...













I'M NOT  
GIVING  
BACK THE  
LIPSTICK.



QUARRELING  
WITH SOME-  
ONE LIKE YOU  
HERE WOULD  
BOTHR THE  
NEIGHBORS.

JUST  
COME  
INSIDE.



I'M NOT GOING  
TO PUT UP WITH  
ANY MORE OF YOUR  
SELFISHNESS.



THROW  
IT  
AWAY?

DEPENDING  
ON HOW  
THINGS GO,  
I MIGHT  
THROW IT  
AWAY.



YOU'D  
DISAPPOINT  
UGOU-SAN,  
TOO.

ALL  
YOU CAN  
MANAGE  
IS SHITTY  
ACTING.

JUST  
WHAT DO  
YOU PLAN  
TO DO,  
WITHOUT  
ME AND  
THE LIP-  
STICK?



CAN YOU  
EVEN DO  
THAT?



...



HEH



I'VE  
ALREADY  
GOT  
WHAT I  
WANT  
MOST.

I DON'T  
REALLY  
CARE IF  
I DON'T  
HAVE  
YOU.





HE  
LOVED  
EVERY  
INCH  
OF MY  
BODY...  
ALL THE  
WAY  
INSIDE.

I'LL  
SHOW  
YOU  
HOW,  
LAST  
NIGHT  
...



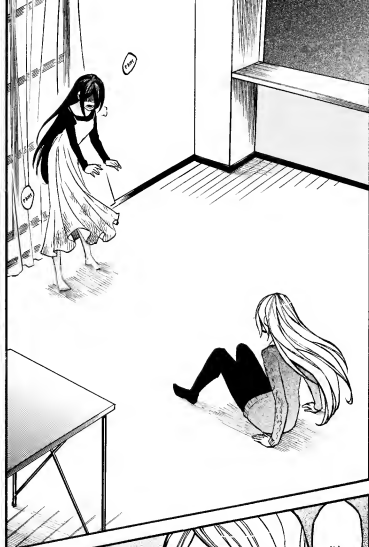
WHAT  
A FAKE  
LIKE  
YOU CAN  
NEVER  
EXPERI-  
ENCE...



STOP  
IT!

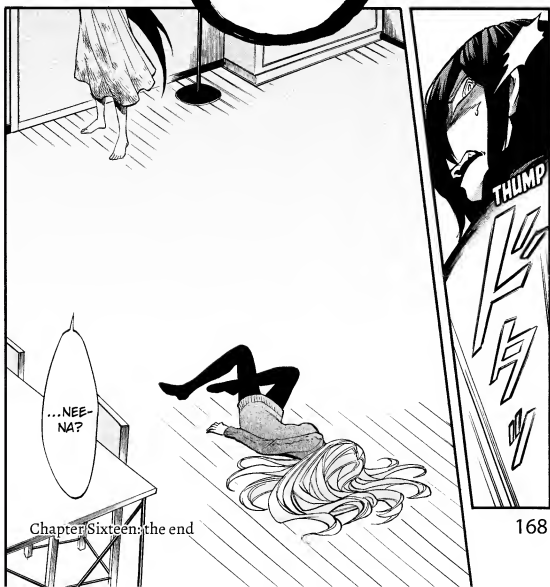
SHOVE





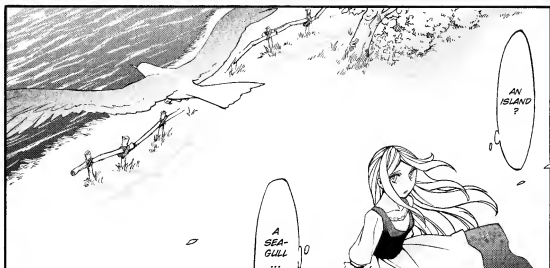


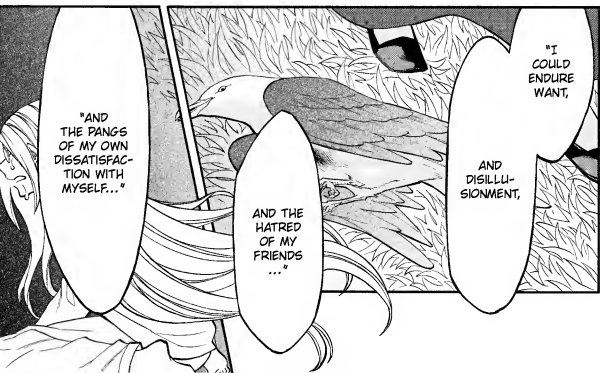
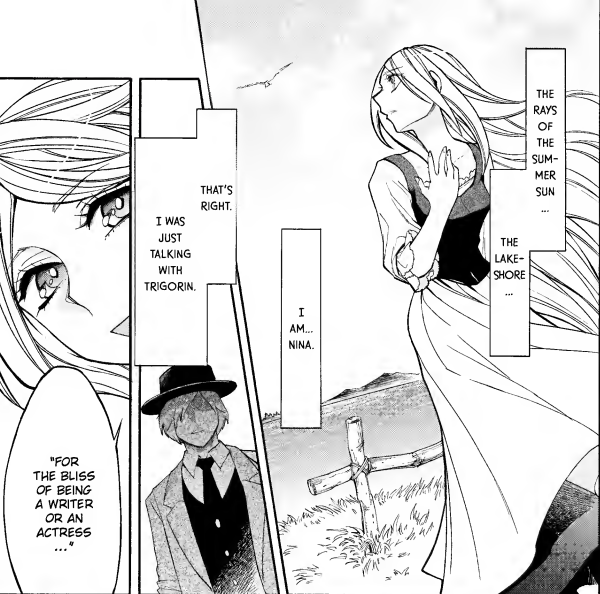


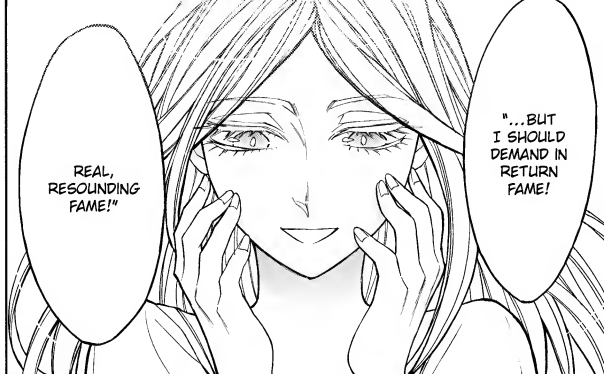


Chapter Seventeen: The Two Ninas





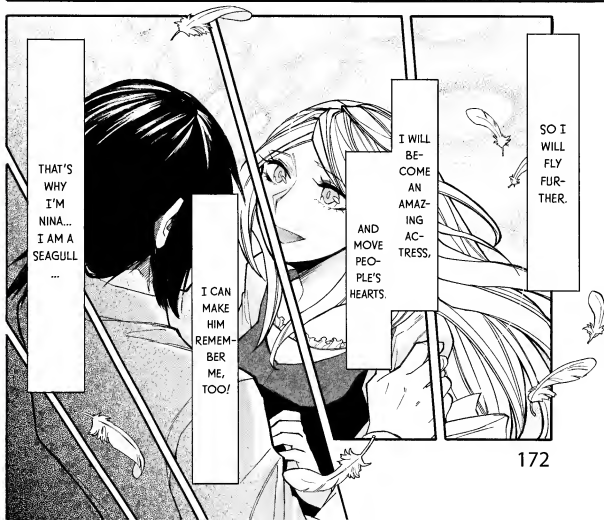




REAL,  
RESOUNDING  
FAME!"

"...BUT  
I SHOULD  
DEMAND IN  
RETURN  
FAME!

YES. I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO FORGET ME.



THAT'S  
WHY  
I'M  
NINA...  
I AM A  
SEAGULL  
...

I CAN  
MAKE  
HIM  
REMEM-  
BER  
ME,  
TOO!

I WILL  
BE-  
COME  
AN  
AMAZ-  
ING  
AC-  
TRESS,  
AND  
MOVE  
PEO-  
PLE'S  
HEARTS.

SO I  
WILL  
FLY  
FUR-  
THER.

I FEEL  
LIKE...

I'VE  
BEEN  
HAVING  
A  
LONG,  
LONG  
DREAM.

I'M  
COLD  
...



AND  
IT'S STILL  
ONLY FOUR,  
AND IT'S  
DARK OUT-

LIKE  
IT'S THE  
MIDDLE OF  
WINTER  
...

OH...

10:13  
12/03 SAT 52°C 10%

I WAS INUNDATED WITH ANXIETY AND QUESTIONS, ALL AT ONCE.

PANT

THE MOMENT I REALIZED WHAT HAD HAPPENED ...

PANT

PANT

D-

DE...

CEM ...

DECEMBER?!

カ  
タ  
ツ

THUNK



OH ...

WHAT ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE OF THE SEAGULL?

WHEN DID I FALL ASLEEP?

WHERE DID I FALL ASLEEP?

CREAK

THIS FACE... IT'S KASANE'S?

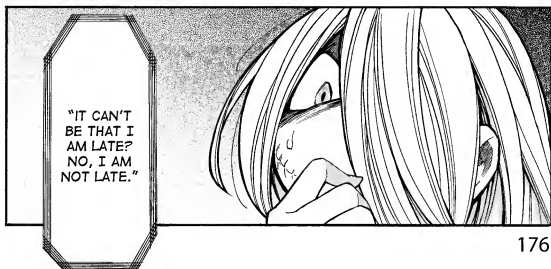
A-AND KASANE...

BUT WHERE IS THE LIP-STICK?

LIK ...









CHEKHOV'S  
THE  
SEAGULL  
...

"I  
UNDER-  
STAND  
ALL, ALL,  
ALL,

AND  
EACH LIFE  
LIVES  
AGAIN  
IN ME."

"WHAT  
DECA-  
DENT  
RUB-  
BISH IS  
THIS?"

"MOTHER!"

IS A  
STORY  
OF A  
CHAIN  
OF  
UNRE-  
QUITED  
LOVES.

THE  
MAIN  
CHAR-  
ACTER,  
TRE-  
PLIEFF,  
IS IN LOVE  
WITH  
NINA.  
HOW-  
EVER,  
NINA  
IS AT-  
TRACT-  
ED TO  
ANOTH-  
ER MAN,  
AND  
THAT  
MAN  
LOVES  
ANOTH-  
ER...



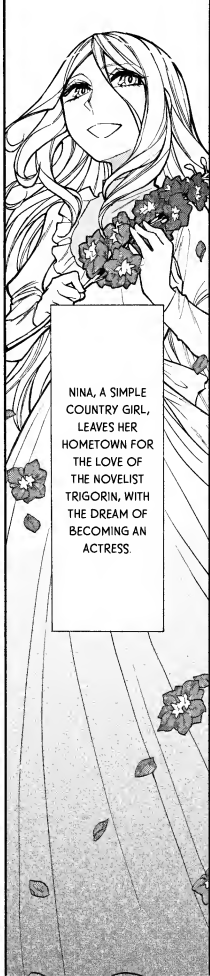
NONE OF  
THEM CAN  
GET WHAT  
THEY DESIRE.

SEEKS  
LOVE,  
OR  
FAME.

AND  
LIKE THIS,  
EVERY  
SINGLE  
CHAR-  
ACTER...



BUT IN THE END,  
SHE FAILS AT  
EVERYTHING,  
AND ON A  
STORMY NIGHT,  
SHE COMES  
TO TREPLIEFF  
IN SECRET.



NINA, A SIMPLE  
COUNTRY GIRL,  
LEAVES HER  
HOMETOWN FOR  
THE LOVE OF  
THE NOVELIST  
TRIGORIN, WITH  
THE DREAM OF  
BECOMING AN  
ACTRESS.



IT'S A  
TRAGIC  
COM-  
EDY,  
WRITTEN  
WITH  
LOVE  
FOR  
THE  
CHAR-  
ACTERS.  
  
AND  
THE  
CHAR-  
ACTER  
IN THE  
CENTER  
OF ALL  
THIS  
SADNESS  
IS NINA.



I ACT  
WITH JOY,  
WITH EXAL-  
TATION,  
I AM IN-  
TOXICATED  
BY IT..."

"NOW  
I AM A  
REAL  
ACTRESS.

WHILE ALL  
THE OTHERS  
LIVE ON,  
HAVING GIVEN  
UP ON THEIR  
DREAMS...  
NINA  
ALONE  
...



"AND FEEL THAT  
I AM SUPERB."



AND  
WHEN  
I THINK  
OF MY  
CALLING  
..."

"I  
BELIEVE,  
AND SO  
DO NOT  
SUFFER  
SO MUCH,

ACTS AS  
THOUGH MAD,  
BUT SHE  
STILL SPEAKS  
HOPEFULLY  
BEFORE SHE  
LEAVES.



"I DO NOT  
FEAR LIFE."



SHE LEAVES  
ONCE MORE,  
INTO THE  
STORM...

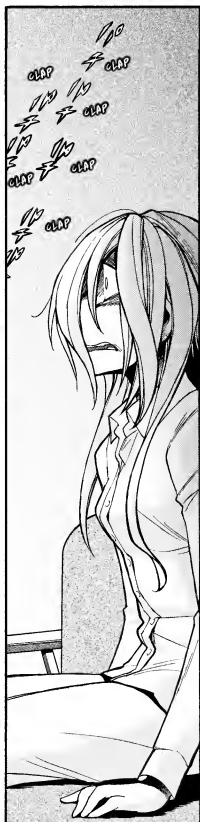
JUST AS  
A SEAGULL  
FLIES AWAY...

SHE  
SAYS  
ALL THAT  
OPTIMISTIC  
STUFF, AS  
IF SHE'S  
TRYING TO  
MAKE  
HERSELF  
BELIEVE  
IT. IT'S  
TRAGIC  
...

BUT  
EVEN AT  
ROCK  
BOTTOM,  
EVEN  
WHEN  
SHE'S  
CONFUSED,  
SHE'S  
STILL  
STRONG  
...

NINA  
IS...  
ME.

I'VE  
ALWAYS  
LOVED  
NINA'S  
PART, AND  
I'VE READ  
IT MANY  
TIMES...



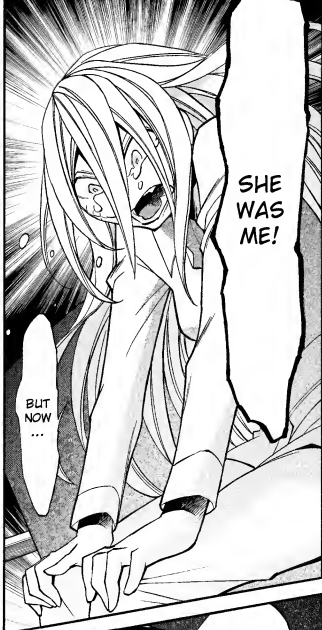




EVEN I  
CAN TELL...  
I'D NEVER  
DO ANY  
BETTER  
THAN THAT,  
EVEN IF I  
SPENT MY  
WHOLE LIFE  
ON IT!



NOW  
THAT  
SHE'S  
SHOWN  
ME  
SUCH  
AN  
AMAZ-  
ING  
NINA  
...



SHE  
WAS  
ME!

BUT  
NOW  
...



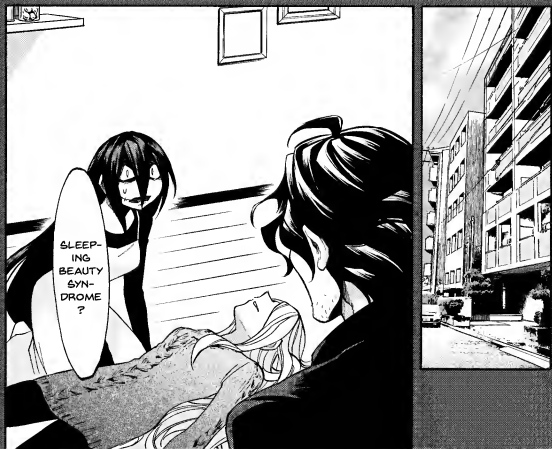
THANK  
YOU  
...

WELL...

THOUGH  
JUST AN  
ORDINARY  
ONE.

NEENA,  
IF YOU  
COULD  
SHOW  
WHAT  
YOU'VE  
REALLY  
GOT, YOU  
COULD BE  
A WON-  
DERFUL  
ACTRESS,  
TOO.







YEAH,  
SHE'S  
HAD IT  
FOR A  
LONG  
TIME.

SLEEPING  
FOR WEEKS  
ON END? IS  
THAT A REAL  
DISEASE?



WHAT  
HAP-  
PENED  
?

...

SHE  
SAID  
SHE  
CAN'T  
DEAL  
WITH  
YOU  
ANY-  
MORE,  
OR  
SOME-  
THING.

BUT  
LAST  
NIGHT,  
SHE  
CALLED  
ME.

YEP.

THAT  
WAS  
THE  
PLAN.

WAS SHE...  
SETTING ME  
UP FOR THIS,  
IN CASE THIS  
HAPPENED?




OHH.

SHE  
DODGED  
THE  
SUB-  
JECT.

I  
DIDN'T  
SEE A  
PROBLEM  
WITH  
LEAVING  
IT BE.

THEN YOU  
SHOULD  
HAVE TOLD  
ME SHE  
WAS SICK.

IF  
YOU'RE  
DOING  
THIS  
BECAUSE  
MY  
MOTHER  
WANTED  
IT...



EVERYTHING  
SHE HAD WOULD  
BE YOURS.

I KNEW  
EITHER  
WAY, ONCE  
NEENA FELL  
ASLEEP...



EVERY-  
THING,  
HUH...



I'LL  
TAKE  
BACK  
EVEN  
MORE  
THAN  
I'VE  
LOST...  
BEFORE  
SHE  
WAKES  
UP.

NOW  
THAT  
WE'VE  
COME  
TO  
THIS  
...



BUT HE'S  
RIGHT —  
NOW, HER  
BEAUTIFUL  
FACE, AND  
THE STAGE,  
ARE STILL  
MINE.

NOT  
EVERY-  
THING...  
I CAN'T  
GET HER  
LOVE  
BACK.



I'M  
LOOKING  
FOR MY  
LIPSTICK.



WHAT'RE  
YOU  
DOING?









NOBODY  
WILL WORRY  
OVER IT IF  
YOU BECOME  
EVEN BETTER,  
EVEN MORE  
BEAUTIFUL.  
NO ONE WILL  
SUSPECT  
A THING.

ANYONE  
WOULD PAY  
ATTENTION,  
IF YOU GOT  
WORSE.

BUT  
...



BUT ISN'T  
THIS JUST  
WHAT YOU  
WANTED?

IF YOU DO  
THAT, THE  
FAKE WILL  
BECOME  
THE REAL.

C  
L  
A  
C  
K

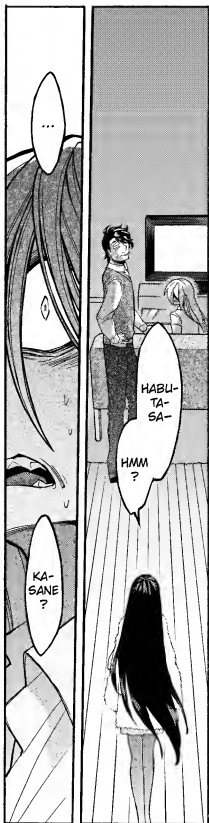
IN FACT,  
IF SHE WERE  
TO GO AWAY,  
WHAT WOULD  
YOU LOSE?  
YOU SHOULD  
THINK HARD  
ABOUT  
THAT.

EXISTS  
TO BE  
OFFERED  
TO SOME-  
ONE WITH  
TALENT.

NEENA  
TAN-  
ZAWA  
...  
THAT  
BEAU-  
TIFUL  
FACE  
...

WHAT I  
WANTED  
?

AS  
LONG  
AS YOU  
HAVE  
KASANE,  
THE  
WORLD  
WON'T  
FORGET  
YOU.







## HAMMERHEAD WORM

EDITOR,  
I-SHI

A-a  
color  
inner  
cover?

I figured if I didn't manage to get published by the time I'm twenty-eight, I'd give up on manga...

I'll  
rent a  
place!

रा. दि.

I want to call in some assistants, so if I don't set up a place to work, I'm screwed.

April 2013

• WHAT?  
THEN ITS  
GETTING  
PUBLISHED  
?

I told you  
I ran it by  
the editor-in-  
chief before,  
right? (Quite a  
while ago.)  
Were you  
listening?

YES,  
IT'S  
SET-  
TLED  
/

But it's Huh?  
not even Huh?  
settled  
that this  
is getting  
serialized,  
right?

I'LL GO  
WITH THIS  
ONE!

It just sounds too good to be true

CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THIS  
PROPERTY TO BE DISCLOSED LATER

IN JAPAN, THIS IS ALWAYS CODE FOR "SOMEONE HAS DIED VIOLENTLY HERE." PROPERTIES LIKE THIS ARE OFTEN VERY CHEAP BECAUSE THEY'RE CONSIDERED SPIRITUALLY DIRTY.)

It's so big!  
And bright!  
And clean! I've  
got to go with  
this one!

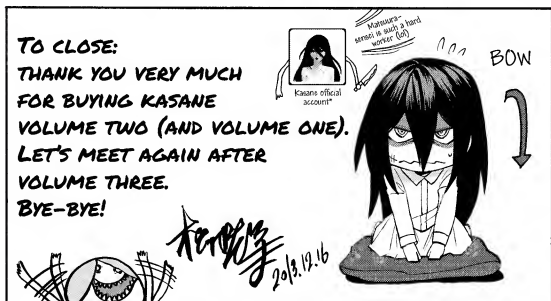
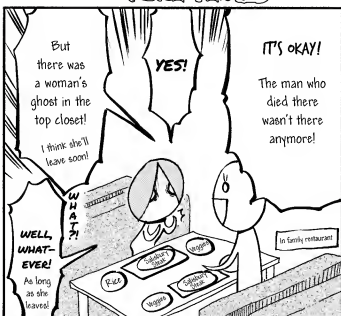
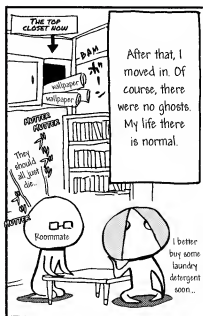
BUT STILL, WENT TO  
GO SEE THE PROPERTY  
ANYWAY (WITH A FRIEND  
WHO CAN SEE GHOSTS)

00000000-00000000

**WHAM!**

The previous tenant committed suicide at home.	Email from the realtor
--	------------------------

OSHIMATERU IS A COMPANY THAT RECORDS PROPERTIES WITH VIOLENT DEATHS. IT CAN ALL BE VIEWED ONLINE FOR FREE.



\*On Twitter there is an account called @kasane\_fuchi. I vomit out (tweet) information and sketches. Please follow me, okay?

## **Kasane 2**

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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